SPECIAL ISSUE

CLASSIC HORROR TALES

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

K 47721

AUG. 1977

$1.50

Featuring:

THE DEAD RISE FROM THE OOZE IN THE

HEAD CHOPPER

A SHOCKING IMMERSION INTO HORROR WITH

THE SKELETONS

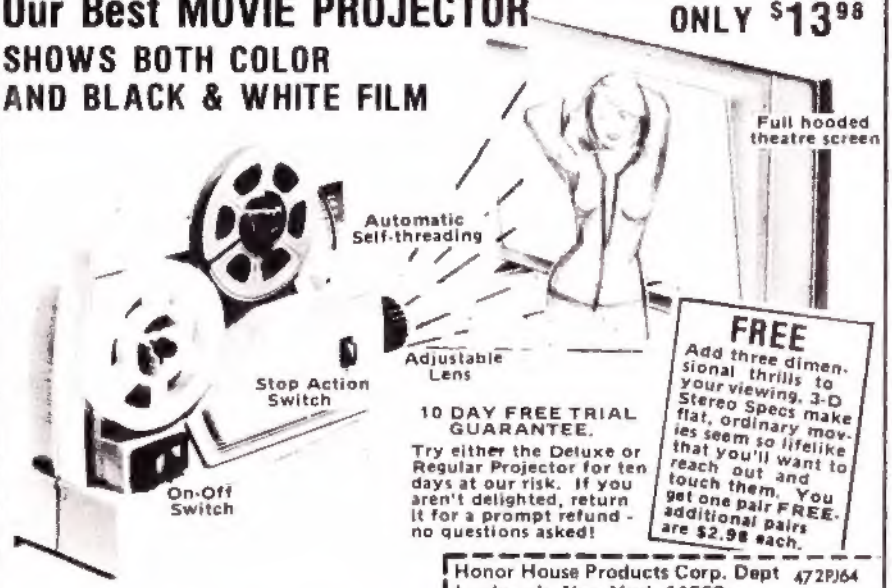
PLUS

THE FANGED FREAK

Our Best MOVIE PROJECTOR

ONLY $13.98

SHOWS BOTH COLOR AND BLACK & WHITE FILM



FREE
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- Luminous, hooded screen at no extra charge.
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Honor House Products Corp. Dept 472PJ64
Lynbrook, New York 11563

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☐ Send the ☐ Deluxe, or ☐ Regular (check your choice) COD. I enclose $1 deposit and will pay postman the balance plus COD charges.
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FREE: Targets and 50 reuseable pellets

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- Stainless Steel Blade

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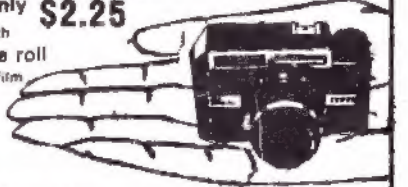
MINIATURE SECRET SPY CAMERA

only $2.25 with free roll of film



This precision camera is small enough to fit into a cigarette pack and weighs only 2½ ounces, but this mighty midget takes amazing, stop action, candid shots - has a precision ground lens, and time exposure setting. It's so small you can hide it anywhere. A great value for only $2.25 including a FREE roll of film. (Please add 35¢ for postage and handling).
Additional film 3 rolls for $1.00

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HORROR TALES

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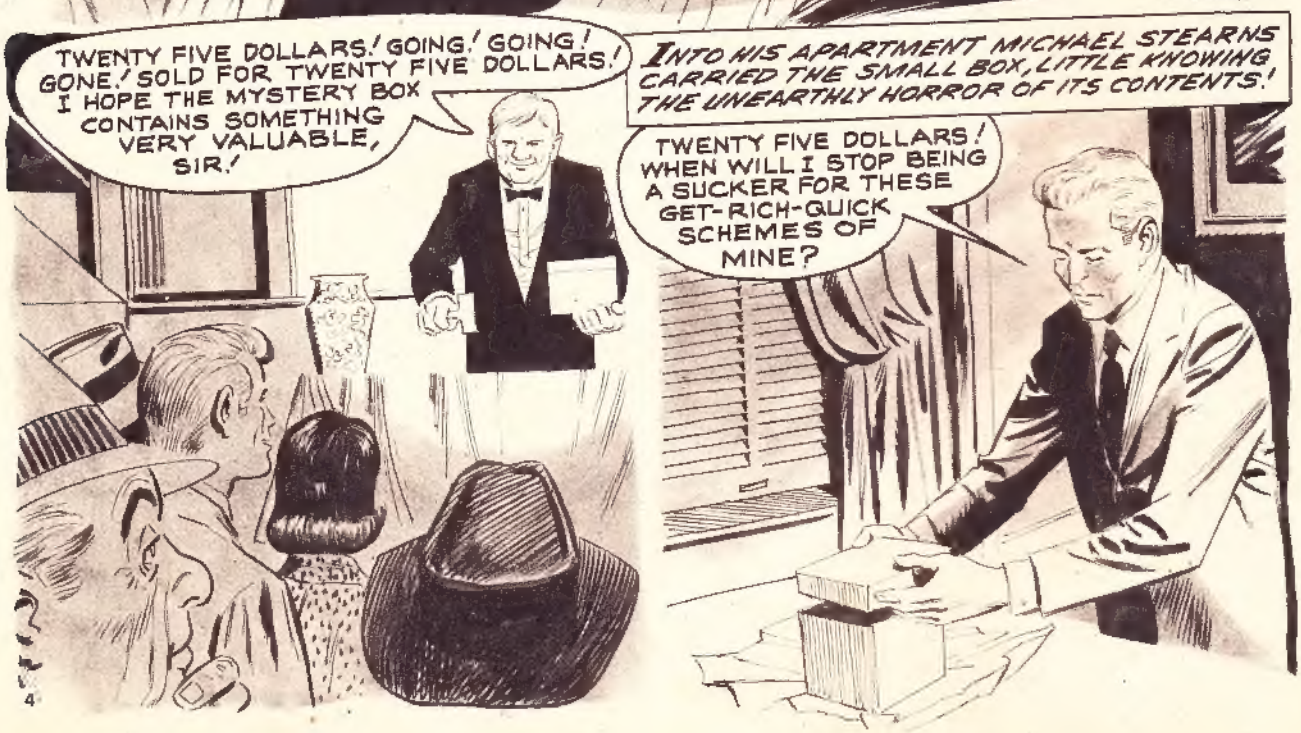
THROUGH THE CRAWLING JUNGLE BEAT THE DRUMS OF THE LIVING DEAD. ANCIENT RITES ARE PERFORMED BY FETID CORPSES GUIDED BY A....

THE HEAD CHOPPER

OSCAR FRAGA



AAAAH!! IT'S A SHRUNKEN CANNIBAL HEAD!
MICHAEL CAST THE PUTRID, ONCE HUMAN MASS UPON THE TABLE AND AS HE LOOKED AT IT...IT SEEMED TO PULSATE WITH LIFE...
THE... THE HAIR! IT... IT'S GROWING! AND THE EYES ARE BLINKING! OH, NO! I MUST BE DREAMING!
SLOWLY THE GROTESQUE MOUTH BEGAN TO OPEN AND SIGH, THEN...
MICHAEL STEARNS...COME CLOSER AND LISTEN TO MY STORY...
NO! NO! I MUST BE GOING MAD!
MICHAEL'S HYPNOTIZED MIND WAS FORCED ACROSS THE SEA AND INTO THE TEEMING JUNGLES TO WITNESS THE SATANIC POWERS OF THE PRIESTESS...
MANY MOONS AGO I WAS A PRIESTESS OF THE ORINOCO HEAD-HUNTERS, BUT I WAS IN LEAGUE WITH THE DEVIL-GOD. I HAD POWERS OF EVIL WHICH MADE MY TRIBESMEN FEAR ME!
SHE IS TURNING MY SON INTO A MONSTER!
SERVANT OF THE DEVIL! I WILL KILL YOU!

IT IS DONE! HEHE! NOW I SHALL RULE ALL WITH MY EVIL POWER!
BRING HER TO THE EXECUTION BLOCK!
SEIZE HER!
FOOLS! KILL ME IF YOU THINK I CAN DIE! BUT FIRST I PUT THE CURSE OF LIVING DEATH UPON YOU ALL! YOU SHALL SLEEP WHILE THE FLESH ROTS OFE YOUR BONES! AND YOU SHALL NEVER RISE UNTIL I RETURN AND BID YOU TO DO SO!
THEN SLOWLY MICHAEL'S INCREDULOUS MIND WAS GUIDED BACK TO THE THING OF TERROR WHOSE SINISTER SMILE CONFRONTED HIM...
I NEED A BODY UPON WHICH TO PLACE MYSELF. I KNOW YOU, MICHAEL TO BE GREEDY FOR GOLD, AND I WILL GIVE YOU GREAT WEALTH AND POWER OVER DEATH IN EXCHANGE FOR A FRESHLY DECAPITATED BODY!
YOU... YOU MEAN YOU WANT ME TO... TO...
BUT HOW DID YOU GET TO AMERICA?
THEN, MICHAEL, THEY SHRUNK MY HEAD AS WAS THEIR CUSTOM! I WAS DISCOVERED BY AN EXPLORER WHO BROUGHT ME HERE. YOU KNOW THE REST, BUT...

THIS HORRID PROPOSAL FILLED MICHAEL WITH TERROR. TO KILL FOR THIS THING WAS MORE THAN HIS MIND COULD CONTAIN! YET...
YES! I'LL DO IT. POWER AND WEALTH WILL BE MINE! WHAT IS ONE LIFE...
WAITING, MICHAEL DISCOVERS HIS VICTIM AND WITH THE STEALTH OF A WEREWOLF HIS GREEDY EYES WATCH HER WALK BEFORE HIM...
THE UGLY KNIFE DOES ITS BRUTAL WORK...
THAT'S OVER! NOW I MUST GET BACK WITHOUT BEING SEEN...
YOU HAVE DONE WELL! NOW FOLLOW MY DIRECTION. FIRST YOU MUST PLACE MY HEAD ON THE BODY.
AS THE FOUL HEAD WAS PLACED UPON THE LOVELY BODY A STRANGE MOAN WAS HEARD, LIKE A DEMON HOWLING AT THE MOON... THEN...
NOMO OS DIAKETI TIMA!
EXITIR ACA DIMI! YA MIYO TRUGAT!

PUFF
WHEN THE BLINDING LIGHT DIMMED MICHAEL BENELD THE GHASTLY APPARITION WHICH HE MURDEROUSLY HELPED TO CREATE.
WE MUST SAIL FOR MY VILLAGE WHERE I SHALL EXERCISE MY POWERS. YOU SHALL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS, MICHAEL!
AIEEE! I... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO HORRIBLE!
SHE HAS A PRETTY FIGURE...I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER FACE?
SHE'S PROBABLY SOME CELEBRITY AND DOESN'T WANT TO HAVE THE CROWD ANNOY HER!
EVERY TIME THAT VEILED WOMAN PASSES, I GET A COLD CHILL. IT'S AS THOUGH SOME INVISIBLE FIEND IS RUBBING AGAINST ME!
SO YOU FEEL IT TOO!
AH! AT LAST THE PORT. I CAN FEEL THE EVIL POWERS SURGING WITHIN ME! SOON REVENGE AND POWER SHALL BE MINE!
MUST...MUST I GO WITH YOU?

FAR UP THE UNEXPLORED RIVER, FETID WITH THE VENOMOUS, CRAWLING CREATURES OF THE DANK FORESTS, THE TINY BOAT SLITHERED
THAT POINT UP AHEAD THAT IS WHERE WE LEAVE THE BOAT! OUR JOURNEY IS NEARING IT'S END!
I CAN'T WAIT TO LEAVE THE RIVER!
AAAAIIH! THOSE THINGS! L-LETS GET OUT OF HERE!
DO NOT FEAR THEM. THEY ARE CREATURES OF EVIL AND MY FRIENDS! AS LONG AS YOU ARE WITH ME YOU ARE SAFE! ALONE YOU WOULD PERISH!
MY VILLAGE! AFTER ALL THIS TIME I HAVE RETURNED AS I PROMISED! NOW I SHALL RULE, AND YOU SHALL BE REWARDED!
BUT... BUT IT'S DESERTED! THERE'S NOT A LIVING SOUL ANYWHERE NEAR HERE...
BUT THE VILLAGE WAS NOT DESERTED. CAVERNOUS EYES WATCHED WITHOUT SEEING-SKULLS IN A DEATH-LIKE SLEEP OCCUPIED EVERY HOVEL...
MY CURSE! IT WORKED!
SKELETONS EVERYWHERE! A VILLAGE FULL OF THEM!
NOW TO MAKE THE DEAD RISE! AID ME YOU EVIL SPIRITS AND CREATURES OF THE FOREST... ARA BIANI SARTORIS ARTISSY GLUTEUS MALO LEEYIE!

DOSID MAGBAT!

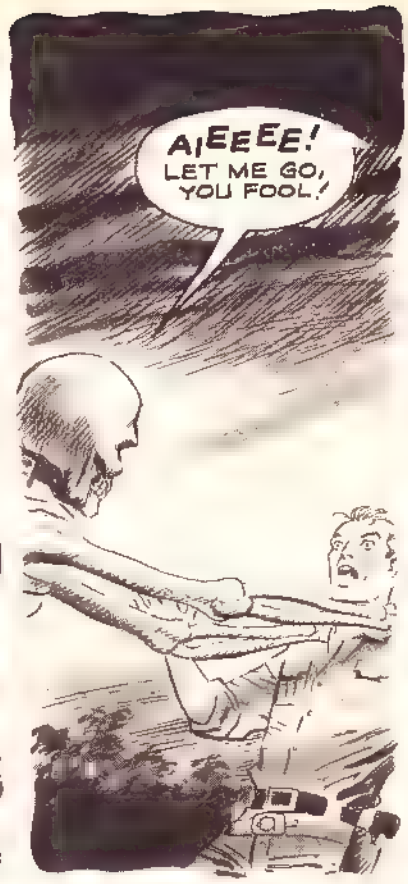
AND THEN ON THAT UNHALLOWED SPOT APPEARED A SIGHT MORE HORRIBLE THAN DEMON HAD EVER DEVISED...
OH! HOW HORRID! I MUST GET AWAY! NO POWER OR WEALTH IS WORTH THIS!
ACCURSED RACE! NOW DO MY BIDDING! DANCE! DANCE THE DANCE OF THE LIVING DEAD!

THE MAD WILD DANCE OF THE LIVING DEAD CONTINUED THRU THE NIGHT, AND THE MANIACAL THROBBING OF THE DRUMS CARRIED TO EVERY CORNER OF THE JUNGLE...
BOOM BOOM BOOM

DANCE, FOOLS! HEHEHEHEHE!
BOOM! BOOM!

AND REACHED THE EARS OF HORRIFIED NATIVES MILES AWAY...
DRUMS COME FROM VILLAGE OF UNHOLY DEATH! EVIL SPIRITS ARE LOOSE TONIGHT!
WE MUST SACRIFICE TO GODS!
HEHEHE! DANCE AND BOW BEFORE ME, SLAVES! BOW, I SAY! HEHEHE!
I CAN'T STAND THIS.. I..I MUST DO SOMETHING!
THE MADNESS OF THE DANCE SNAPPED THE DELICATE TISSUES OF MICHAEL'S BRAIN AND IN SHEER PANIC...
NO! NO! DON'T! I'VE OFFERED YOU RICHES AND POWER! DON'T BE A FOOL!
I CAN'T STAND IT... YOU'RE THE INCARNATION OF EVIL!
I...I'LL KILL HER... THEN MAYBE THE DANCING WILL STOP!
THERE! TAKE THAT...
NOOO!! ARRGHH!!

THEY... THEY'RE COMING TO HER DEFENSE! NO! STOP! I'M YOUR FRIEND... SHE WAS EVIL! NO!


AIEEEE! LET ME GO, YOU FOOL!

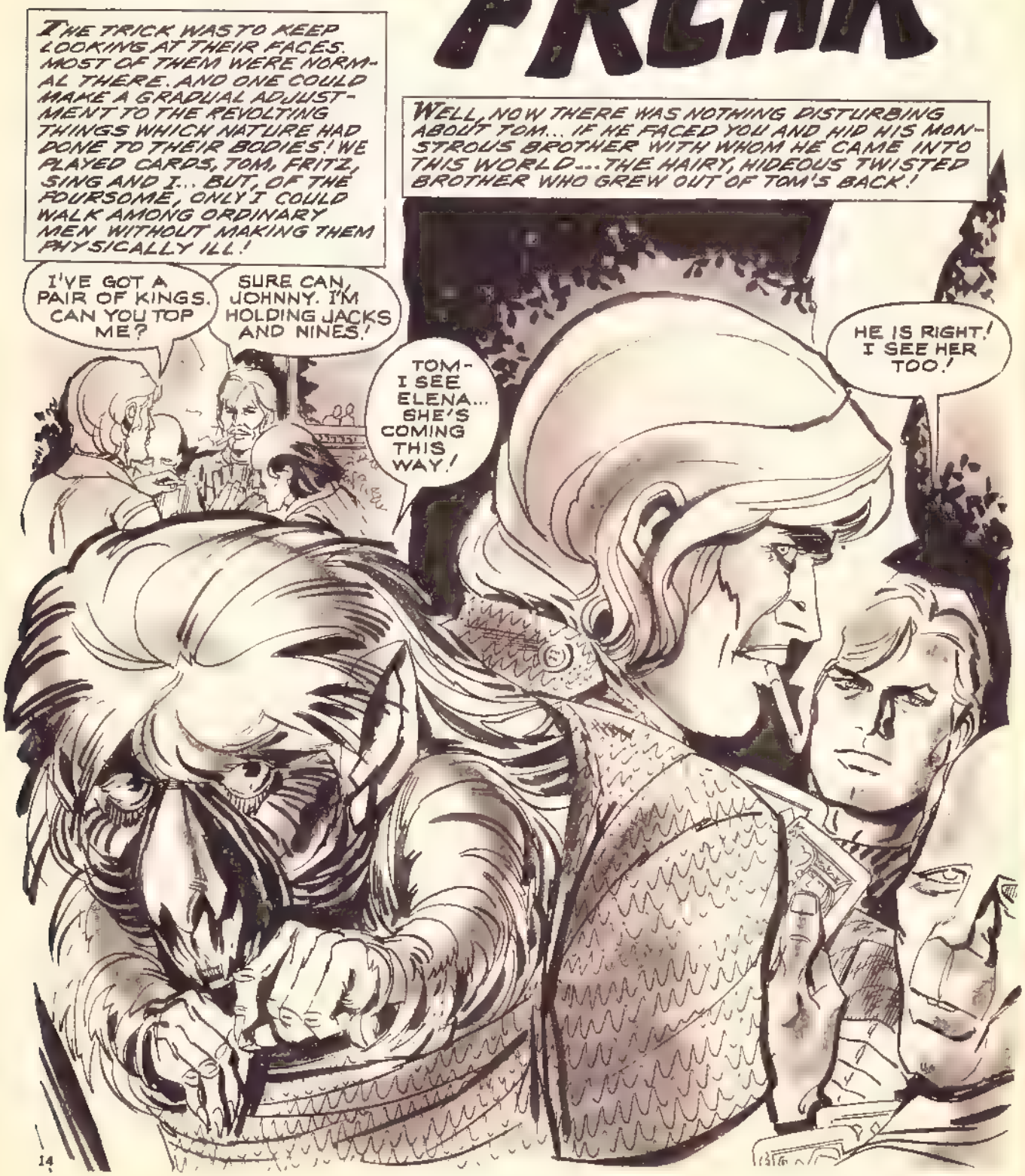
ARRRGHH!!

TIME, WHICH PICKS BONES CLEAN CLAIMS ANOTHER VICTIM. A FAINT SMILE SEEMS TO PLAY ABOUT THE MOUTH OF THE SHRUNKEN HEAD WHICH LIES NEAR THE ROTTING CORPSE...
THE EVIL VILLAGE RESTS IN DORMANT SILENCE.

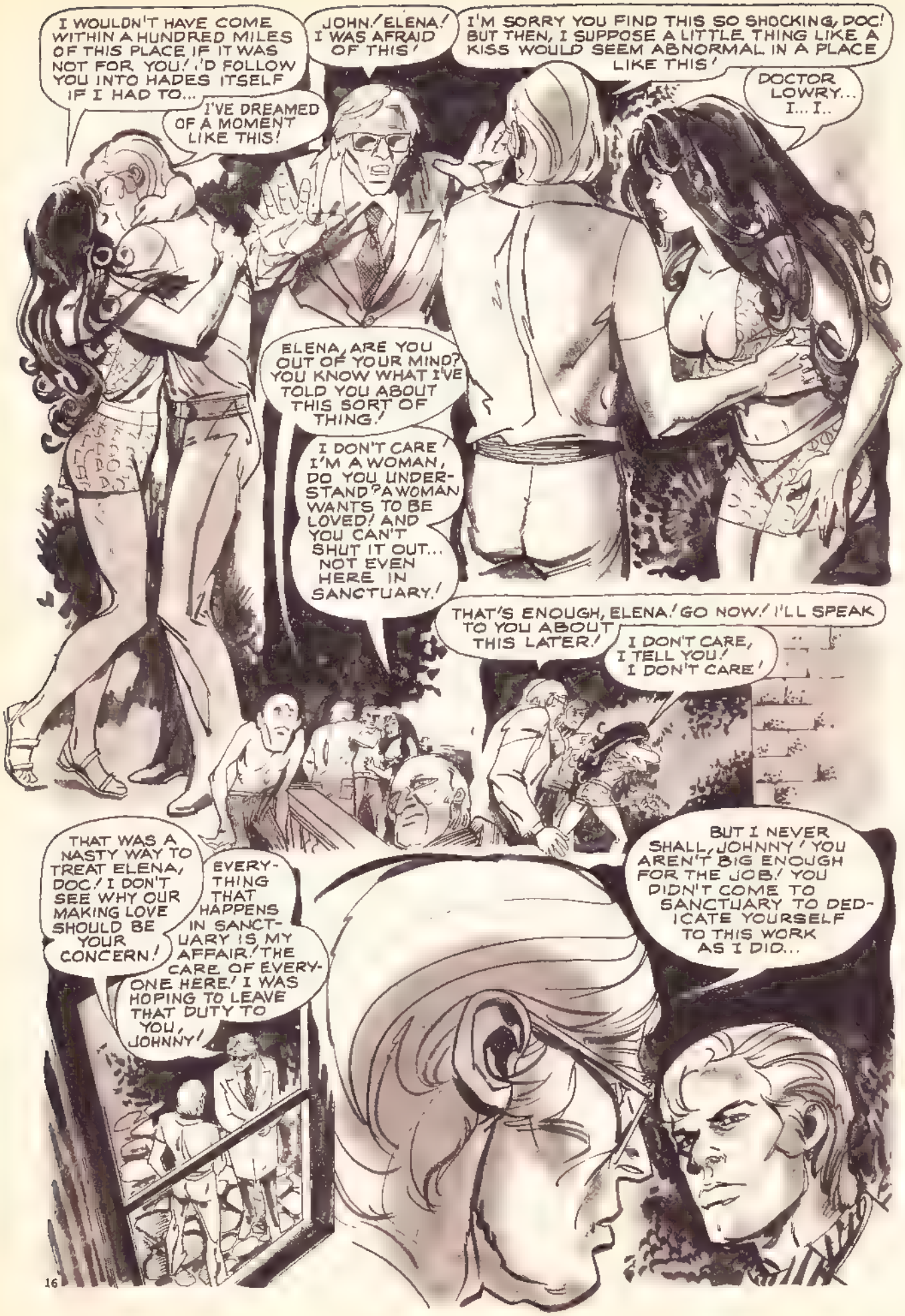
AND THE DAYS PASSED AS THE MURKY DEPTHS OF THE JUNGLE CONCEAL THE HIDEOUS SCENE... UNTIL...
SEEMS TO BE ONE OF THE SUGALI TRIBES! THIS PROMISES TO BE INTERESTING!
LOOK, SMITH, A VILLAGE!

THEN, AS IF PLANNED, THE EVIL SKULL WAS FOUND!
LOOK! A SHRUNKEN HEAD! THESE ARE VALUABLE! WHAT LUCK!
COULD HAVE BEEN A PLAGUE... SO MANY OF THEM!
EASY TO SEE IT WASN'T WAR! THEY'VE ALL GOT THEIR HEADS!
WE OUGHT TO FIND SOMETHING OF VALUE HERE, ANYWAY!
AGAIN THE SHRUNKEN SKULL OF THE PRIESTESS OF THE DEVIL RETURNS TO SEEK NEW PREY FOR HER WARPED LOVE OF POWER AND VENGEANCE!
WELL, SMITH- HOME AGAIN! AND WE DO HAVE GOOD CURIOS TO MARKET, DON'T WE?!
YES- BUT YOU KNOW, EVER SINCE WE PICKED UP THAT HEAD IN THE DESERTED VILLAGE I'VE FELT UNEASY! I'LL BE GLAD WHEN WE'RE RID OF IT!
FIFTEEN DOLLARS ONCE! FIFTEEN DOLLARS TWICE! SOLD! I'M SURE YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED SIR!
AND ANOTHER UNSUSPECTING VICTIM OF THE SPIRITS OF EVIL IS TEMPTED BY FATE TOWARD POWER AND OCCULT KNOWLEDGE..
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE WHAT I BOUGHT...
THE END

THE FANGED FREAK



POOR FRITZ WAS A MAN TO THE END OF HIS RIB CAGE THE OTHER HALF OF HIM WAS A HOUSING FILLED WITH A COMPLEX NETWORK OF TUBES AND CHEMICALS THAT KEPT HIM ALIVE.
SING LEFT THE TABLE RATHER RELUCTANTLY. HE ENJOYED PLAYING CARDS... HOWEVER LIKE THE REST OF THOSE WHO LIVED AT SANCTUARY HE HAD GOOD REASON TO SHY FROM THE GAZE OF NORMAL PEOPLE... ESPECIALLY THE RARE KIND LIKE ELENA, WHO WAS PERFECT IN FORM AND BEAUTY.
EXCUSE ME, HERR PARKER... I MUST GO NOW!
ELENA, I'M GLAD YOU SHOWED UP WHEN YOU DID!
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I'M SORRY I SOUNDED OFF LIKE THAT! I KNOW YOU AND DOC LOWRY HAVE BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO TAKE A LIKING TO THOSE PETS OF YOURS!
TRY AS I MAY, I JUST CAN'T TAKE THOSE THINGS FOR TOO LONG! I... TRY TO TELL MYSELF THAT THEY'VE GOT FEELINGS AND DESIRES LIKE MY OWN... BUT I SEE THEM AS THEY ARE... AND I GET SICK TO MY STOMACH!
THEY CAN'T HELP THEIR DEFORMITIES! THEY'RE ACCIDENTS OF BIRTH AND MISHAP! THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE JUST LIKE ANYBODY ELSE!
I KNOW THAT'S WHY DOC BUILT SANCTUARY... BUT HOW DID HE EVER GET YOU AS A SECRETARY TO LIVE HERE AMONG THEM?
THE DOCTOR IS DOING GREAT WORK AND NEEDS HELP!
IT HASN'T BEEN EASY STAYING HERE, JOHNNY... KNOWING THAT ON THE OUTSIDE THERE ARE MEN LIKE YOU.. TALL, GOOD LOOKING, GOOD TO BE NEAR!
ELENA...


I WOULDN'T HAVE COME WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES OF THIS PLACE IF IT WAS NOT FOR YOU! I'D FOLLOW YOU INTO HADES ITSELF IF I HAD TO...
I'VE DREAMED OF A MOMENT LIKE THIS!
JOHN! ELENA! I WAS AFRAID OF THIS!
I'M SORRY YOU FIND THIS SO SHOCKING, DOC! BUT THEN, I SUPPOSE A LITTLE THING LIKE A KISS WOULD SEEM ABNORMAL IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
DOCTOR LOWRY... I... I..
ELENA, ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING!
I DON'T CARE! I'M A WOMAN, DO YOU UNDERSTAND? A WOMAN WANTS TO BE LOVED! AND YOU CAN'T SHUT IT OUT... NOT EVEN HERE IN SANCTUARY!
THAT'S ENOUGH, ELENA! GO NOW! I'LL SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THIS LATER!
I DON'T CARE, I TELL YOU! I DON'T CARE!
THAT WAS A NASTY WAY TO TREAT ELENA, DOC! I DON'T SEE WHY OUR MAKING LOVE SHOULD BE YOUR CONCERN!
EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN SANCTUARY IS MY AFFAIR! THE CARE OF EVERYONE HERE! I WAS HOPING TO LEAVE THAT DUTY TO YOU, JOHNNY!
BUT I NEVER SHALL, JOHNNY! YOU AREN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE JOB! YOU DIDN'T COME TO SANCTUARY TO DEDICATE YOURSELF TO THIS WORK AS I DID...

YOU CAME HERE BECAUSE OF ELENA! I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT WHEN SHE AND I MET YOU IN NEW YORK!

SO YOU'RE JEALOUS! YOU WANT ELENA FOR YOURSELF, DON'T YOU?

JOHNNY, JOHNNY, HOW I PITY YOU! ELENA IS NOT FOR ME OR YOU . OR ANY MAN! DO YOU KNOW WHY I TOOK HER TO NEW YORK? WE HAD AN APPOINTMENT AT THE DENTON FOAM RUBBER COMPANY...

CAN IT, DOC, I'M NOT INTERESTED, BUT LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING...

I SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF HELD FAST IN THE GRIP OF ONE OF DOC LOWRY'S MONSTROSITIES...

I'M GOING TO TAKE ELENA OUT OF THIS FREAK MENAGERIE TONIGHT! AND IF YOU TRY TO STOP US. . I'LL KILL YOU, DOC!

HURT THE DOCTOR, AND I'LL BREAK YOU INTO LITTLE PIECES!

LET HIM GO, FELIX! JOHNNY'S LEAVING! THERE'LL BE NO MORE TROUBLE IN SANCTUARY!

YOU BLIND FOOL! CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU... ELENA... SHE'S...

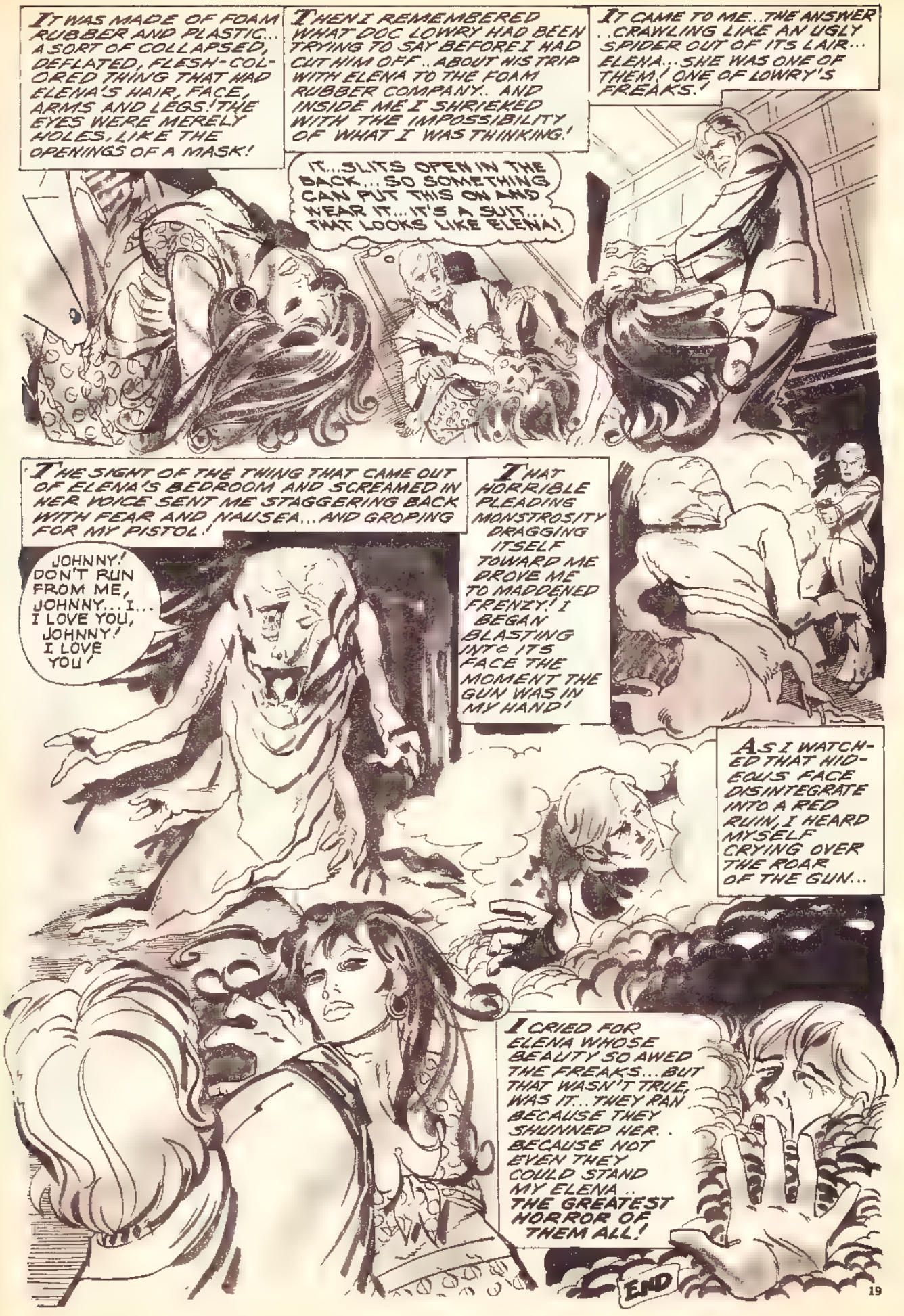
HOURS AFTER THOSE THICK FLESHY FINGERS RELEASED ME, I SPRAWLED ON MY BED CURSING DOC LOWRY AND HIS FREAKS AND ANY OTHER OBSTACLE BETWEEN MYSELF AND ELENA.

I'M NOT GOING WITHOUT ELENA! I CAN'T LEAVE HER HERE AMONG THESE HORRORS! THERE'S NO TIME LEFT, GOT TO MAKE MY MOVE... NOW!

I TOOK A PISTOL. WITH LUCK I WOULD TAKE OFF WITH ELENA IN THE HELICOPTER WHICH BROUGHT US OVER THE MOUNTAINS THAT PROTECTED SANCTUARY FROM THE WORLD OF NORMAL MEN.

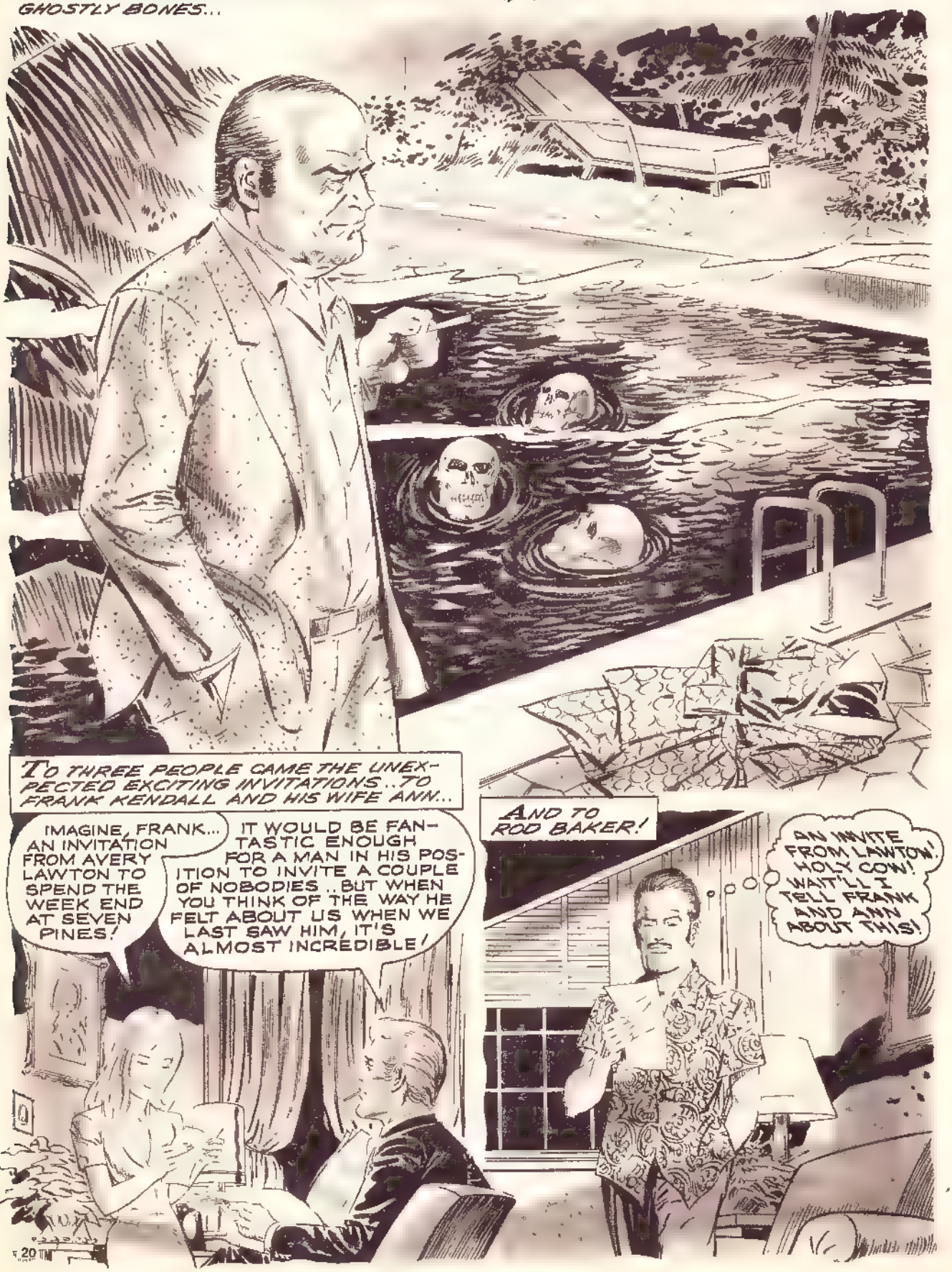
WELL, HERE GOES! THIS CORRIDOR'S CLEAR. I'LL HAVE TO BE QUICK AND SILENT...

NOTHING SEEMED TO BE STIRRING, BUT I DIDN'T RELAX MY TRIGGER FINGER AS I STEALTHILY MOUNTED THE STAIRS TO ELENA'S ROOM...
I FOUND ELENA'S DOOR UNLOCKED. I EASED MYSELF INTO THE ROOM AND CLOSED THE DOOR BEHIND ME...
THE ROOM WAS DIMLY LIT...AND I STEPPED CAUTIOUSLY FORWARD SO AS NOT TO STARTLE HER AND CAUSE AN OUTCRY. SOFTLY I CALLED HER NAME BUT GOT NO ANSWER
ELENA ELENA!
AN ICY CHILL SWEPT ALONG MY SPINE AS I MADE MY WAY THROUGH THE GLOOM IN A FAR CORNER WAS A COUCH - AND WAS THAT ELENA ASLEEP UPON IT? I DREW CLOSER TO MAKE CERTAIN!
SOMEHOW MY BRAIN COULDN'T SEEM TO ABSORB THE MEANING OF THE THING THAT DRAPED CARELESSLY ACROSS THE COUCH...


IT WAS MADE OF FOAM RUBBER AND PLASTIC... A SORT OF COLLAPSED, DEFLATED, FLESH-COLORED THING THAT HAD ELENA'S HAIR, FACE, ARMS AND LEGS! THE EYES WERE MERELY HOLES, LIKE THE OPENINGS OF A MASK!
THEN I REMEMBERED WHAT DOC LOWRY HAD BEEN TRYING TO SAY BEFORE I HAD CUT HIM OFF.. ABOUT HIS TRIP WITH ELENA TO THE FOAM RUBBER COMPANY.. AND INSIDE ME I SHRIEKED WITH THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF WHAT I WAS THINKING!
IT CAME TO ME...THE ANSWER ..CRAWLING LIKE AN UGLY SPIDER OUT OF ITS LAIR... ELENA...SHE WAS ONE OF THEM! ONE OF LOWRY'S FREAKS!
IT...SLITS OPEN IN THE BACK... SO SOMETHING CAN PUT THIS ON AND WEAR IT...IT'S A SUIT... THAT LOOKS LIKE ELENA!
THE SIGHT OF THE THING THAT CAME OUT OF ELENA'S BEDROOM AND SCREAMED IN HER VOICE SENT ME STAGGERING BACK WITH FEAR AND NAUSEA...AND GROPING FOR MY PISTOL!
JOHNNY! DON'T RUN FROM ME, JOHNNY... I... I LOVE YOU, JOHNNY! I LOVE YOU!
THAT HORRIBLE PLEADING MONSTROSITY DRAGGING ITSELF TOWARD ME DROVE ME TO MADDENED FRENZY! I BEGAN BLASTING INTO ITS FACE THE MOMENT THE GUN WAS IN MY HAND!
AS I WATCHED THAT HIDEOUS FACE DISINTEGRATE INTO A RED RUIN, I HEARD MYSELF CRYING OVER THE ROAR OF THE GUN...
I CRIED FOR ELENA WHOSE BEAUTY SO AWED THE FREAKS... BUT THAT WASN'T TRUE, WAS IT... THEY RAN BECAUSE THEY SHUNNED HER.. BECAUSE NOT EVEN THEY COULD STAND MY ELENA.. THE GREATEST HORROR OF THEM ALL!
END

THE SKELETONS

IT WAS TO BE A FABULOUS WEEK-END HOUSE PARTY... BUT INSTEAD OF GAIETY, THERE WAS DEATH... INSTEAD OF LAUGHTER, THERE WAS THE RATTLE OF GHOSTLY BONES...



WHAT! YOU GOT ONE TOO! WHAT DO YOU THINK CAME OVER AVERY TO FORGIVE AND FORGET AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?

SEARCH ME! BUT ANN GRABBED AT THE CHANCE TO SPEND THE WEEK END AT SEVEN PINES, ...AS FOR ME... EVER HEAR OF AN INSURANCE BROKER PASSING UP AN OPPORTUNITY TO SELL A MILLION DOLLAR POLICY?

BLITHELY THE THREE SIMPLE HEARTED PEOPLE SET OUT TOGETHER THAT FRIDAY AND AT DUSK THEY WERE DRIVING INTO SEVEN PINES...

WHEW! WHAT A PLACE! IMAGINE UGLY, PUNY LITTLE AVERY OWNING ALL THIS!

ROD, BE CAREFUL OF WHAT YOU SAY! THIS WON'T BE THE AVERY WE KNEW IN COLLEGE, YOU KNOW!

NO, AVERY LAWTON WAS HARDLY THE BOY THEY HAD KNOWN IN COLLEGE. AT THAT MOMENT HE WAS WATCHING HIS GUESTS ARRIVE...

HERE THEY COME, THE THREE NONENTITIES WHO ONCE DESPISED ME. HERE THEY COME IN A CHEAP LITTLE CAR TO WITNESS MY WEALTH, MY ACHIEVEMENT!

TONIGHT THEY WILL LEARN WHAT I HAVE MADE OF MYSELF... AND TOMORROW WILL BE THE DAY I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO FOR TWENTY YEARS!

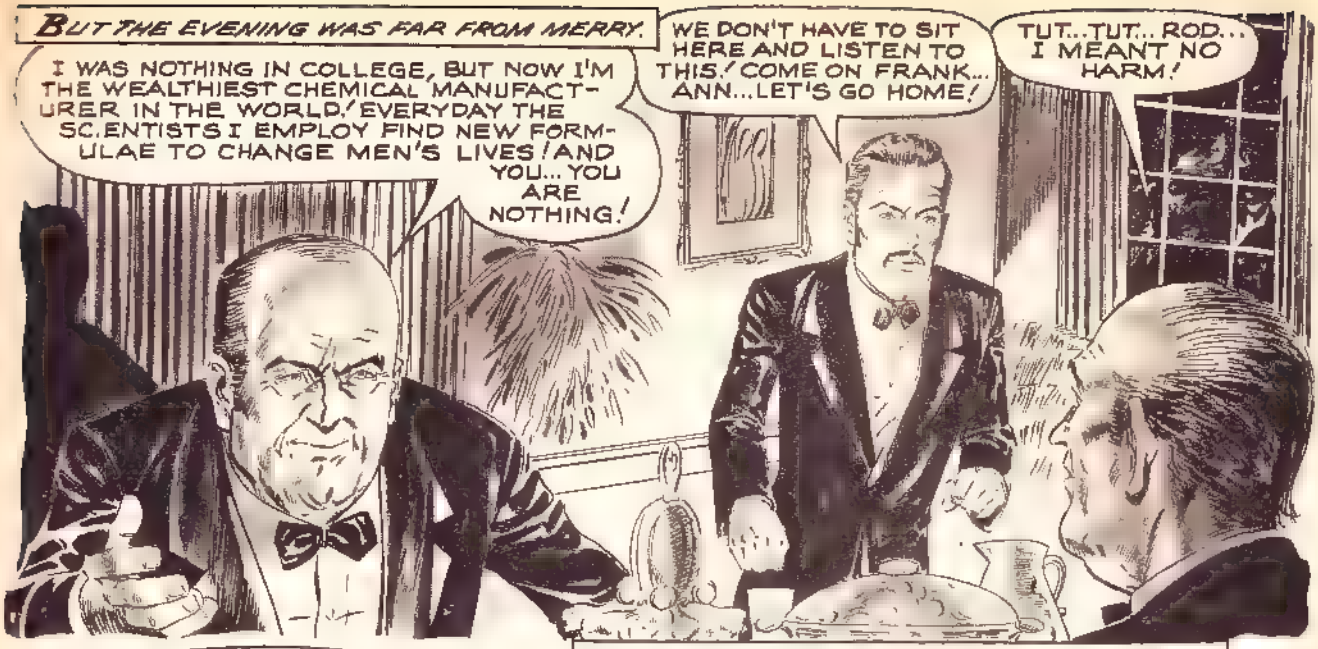
ANN... FRANK... ROD... IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

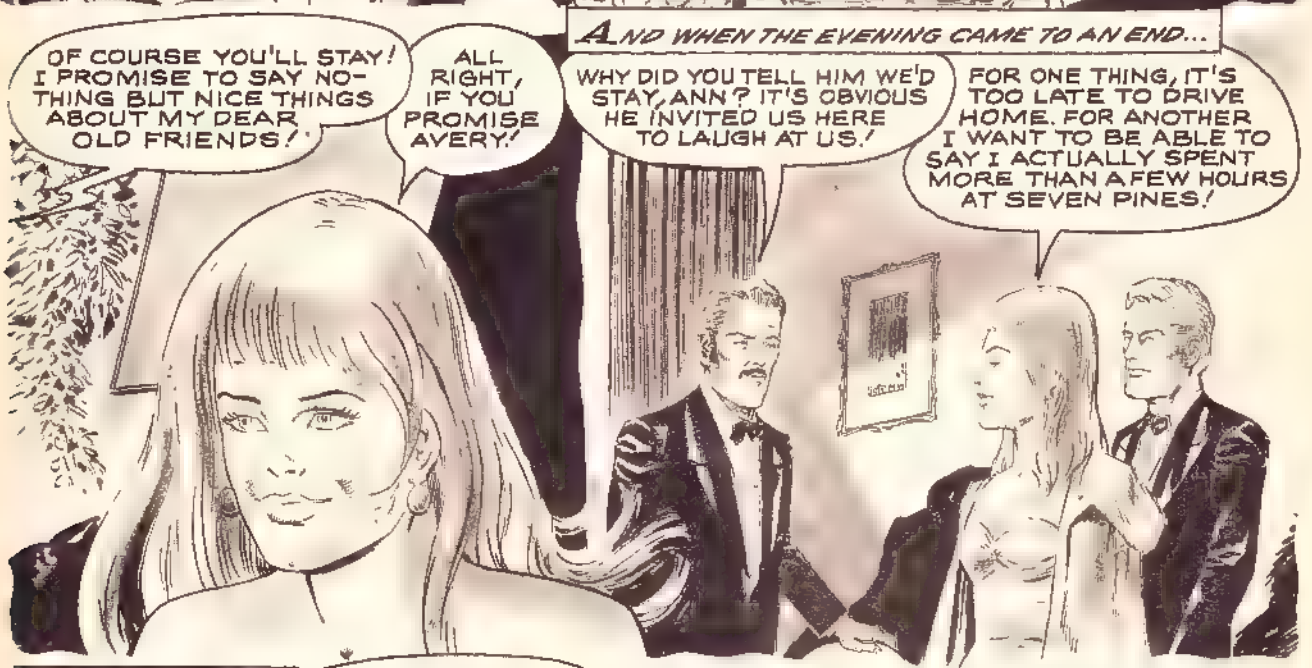
AVERY... IT'S BEEN YEARS!

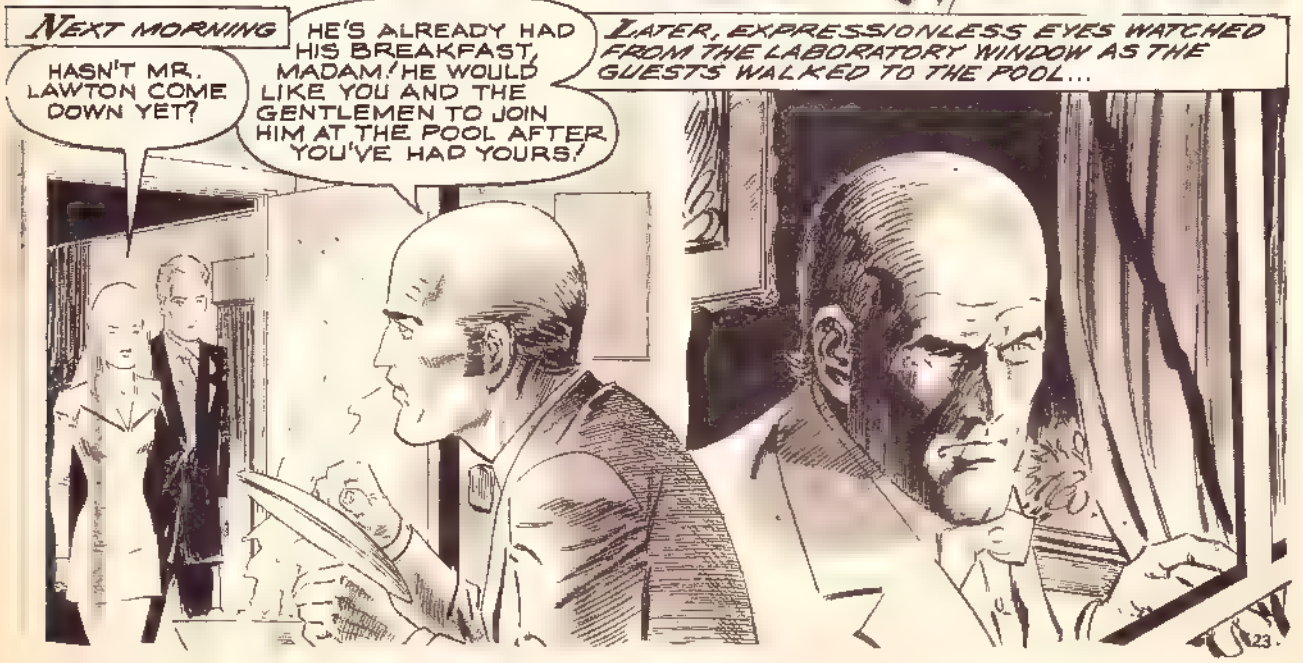
YOU'RE AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER, ANN! MORE SO IF ANYTHING!

OH, AVERY, YOU ALWAYS HAD AN EXAGGERATED OPINION OF ME!

AND FRANK, THE BOY WHO WAS SO GOOD LOOKING I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE WITH ANN. HAVE YOU MADE ANN HAPPY, FRANK?
I'VE TRIED TO, AVERY! WHAT MORE CAN A MAN DO?
AND GOOD OLD ROD... STRONG VIRILE ROD...YOU USED TO MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A PUNY WORM!
NOW... AVERY!
HA HA! REMEMBER THE TIME I TRIED TO FIGHT YOU BECAUSE YOU CALLED ME A PUNY LITTLE RUNT. WHAT A BEATING I TOOK! WHAT DO YOU DO NOW, ROD?
WHAT A WAY TO EXPRESS ONES FORCEFULNESS IN LIFE! HO HO! BUT ENOUGH OF THIS YOU'LL BE WANTING TO GET READY FOR DINNER. I'LL SEE YOU ALL AT EIGHT!
LATER...
AVERY GAVE ME A PECULIAR FEELING! I DIDN'T LIKE THE WAY HE SEEMED TO BE GLOATING OVER US!
I CAUGHT IT TOO! BUT WE DID GIVE HIM A HARD TIME IN COLLEGE! YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM FOR WANTING TO GLOAT A LITTLE!
AT DINNER!
WE AREN'T THE ONLY GUESTS, ARE WE AVERY?
BUT OF COURSE, DEAR ANN! I WANTED THIS WEEK-END TO BE VERY PERSONAL ONE!... WITH ONLY MY GOOD FRIENDS OF COLLEGE DAYS! WE'LL BE MERRY... THE FOUR OF US... I PROMISE YOU!

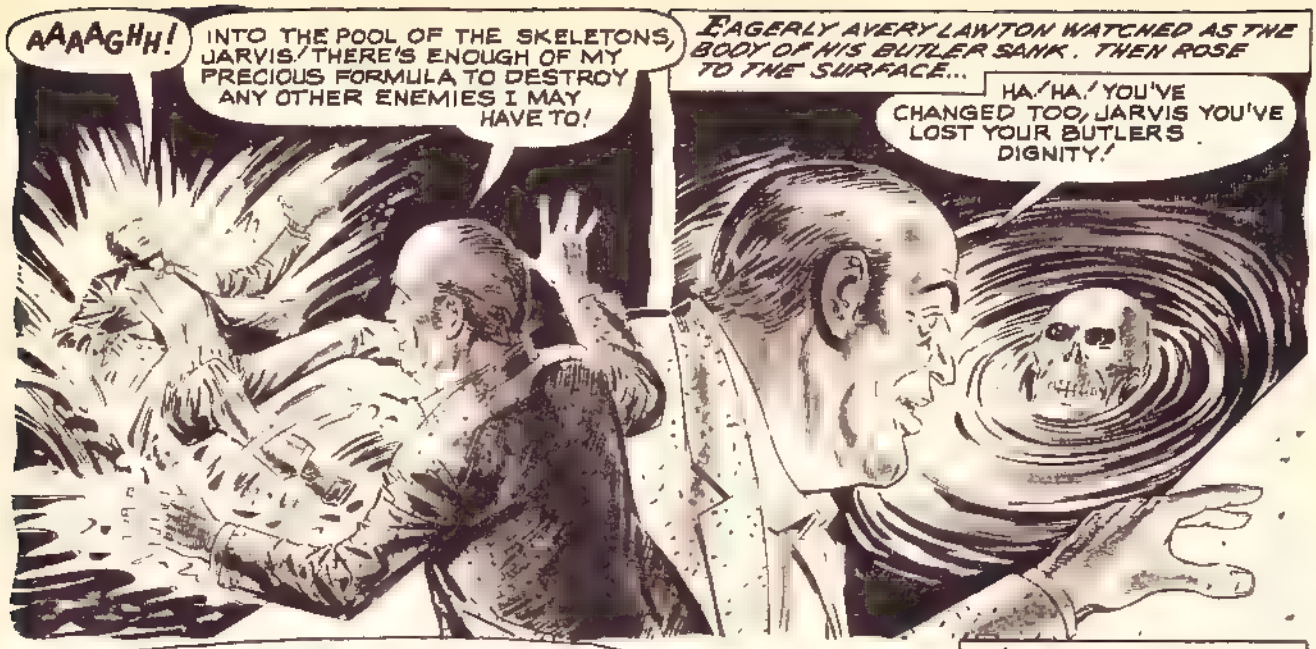

BUT THE EVENING WAS FAR FROM MERRY.
I WAS NOTHING IN COLLEGE, BUT NOW I'M THE WEALTHIEST CHEMICAL MANUFACTURER IN THE WORLD. EVERYDAY THE SCIENTISTS I EMPLOY FIND NEW FORMULAE TO CHANGE MEN'S LIVES! AND YOU... YOU ARE NOTHING!
WE DON'T HAVE TO SIT HERE AND LISTEN TO THIS. COME ON FRANK... ANN... LET'S GO HOME!
TUT... TUT... ROD... I MEANT NO HARM!

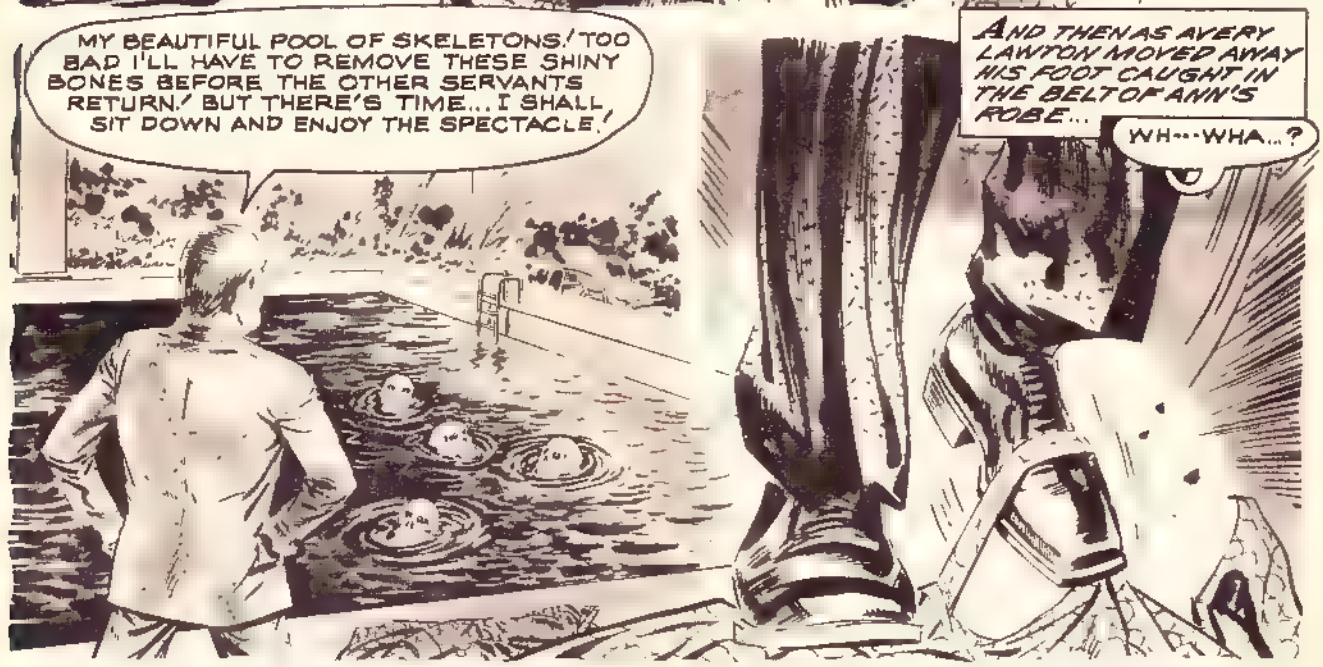

AND WHEN THE EVENING CAME TO AN END...
OF COURSE YOU'LL STAY! I PROMISE TO SAY NOTHING BUT NICE THINGS ABOUT MY DEAR OLD FRIENDS!
ALL RIGHT, IF YOU PROMISE AVERY!
WHY DID YOU TELL HIM WE'D STAY, ANN? IT'S OBVIOUS HE INVITED US HERE TO LAUGH AT US!
FOR ONE THING, IT'S TOO LATE TO DRIVE HOME. FOR ANOTHER I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SAY I ACTUALLY SPENT MORE THAN A FEW HOURS AT SEVEN PINES!

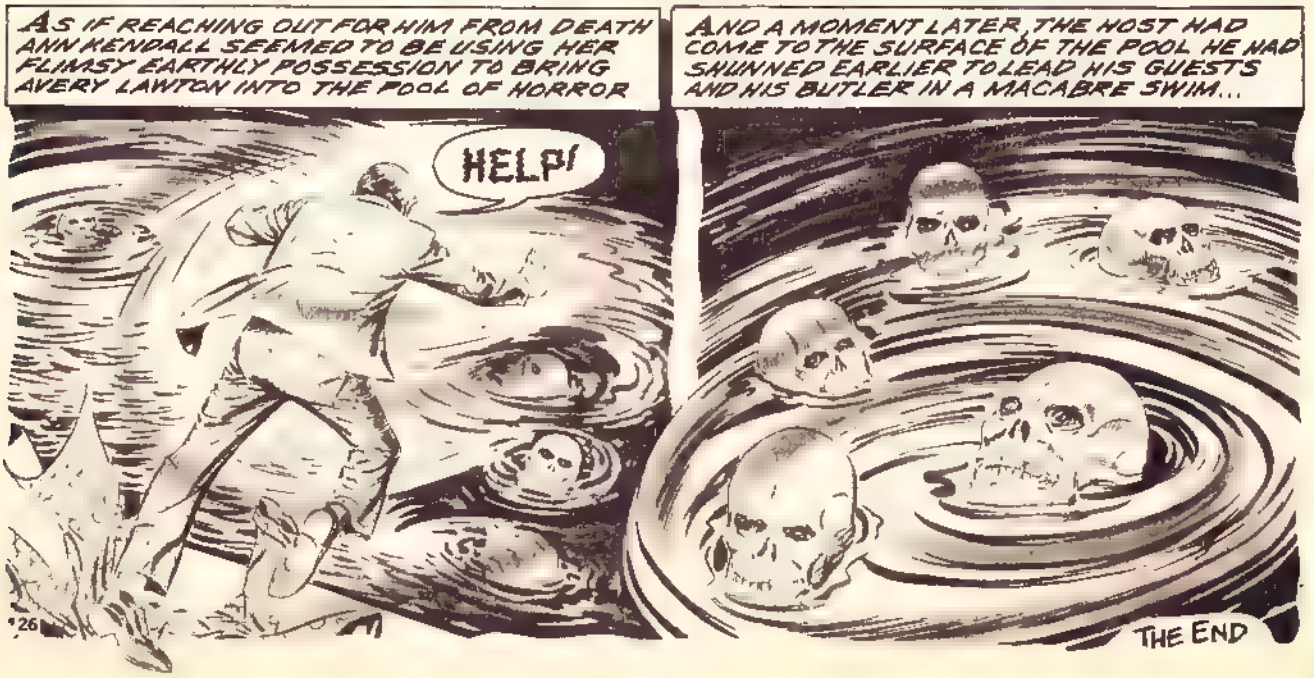

NEXT MORNING
HASN'T MR. LAWTON COME DOWN YET?
HE'S ALREADY HAD HIS BREAKFAST, MADAM! HE WOULD LIKE YOU AND THE GENTLEMEN TO JOIN HIM AT THE POOL AFTER YOU'VE HAD YOURS!
LATER, EXPRESSIONLESS EYES WATCHED FROM THE LABORATORY WINDOW AS THE GUESTS WALKED TO THE POOL...

AVERY, YOU WANTED TO MEET US HERE... BUT YOU AREN'T GOING SWIMMING?
OF COURSE NOT! CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW I'D LOOK IN BATHING TRUNKS ALONGSIDE YOU THREE?
ESPECIALLY YOU ANN! YOU'RE SO LOVELY!
AVERY, PLEASE TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF MY WIFE!
I KNOW... I'M NOT FIT TO TOUCH THE HEM OF HER SKIRT! YOU TOLD ME THAT ONCE BEFORE, FRANK... BUT ENOUGH OF THIS... ENJOY THE LUXURY OF MY POOL!
WE MAY AS WELL AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE!
SUDDENLY...
NO! WAIT!
HAHAHA! A BEAUTIFUL DIVE, MY FRIENDS... A VERY BEAUTIFUL DIVE!
YOU...YOU DID IT! I DISCOVERED IT TOO LATE! OH, IF ONLY YOU'D FAILED... IF ONLY IT DIDN'T WORK!
QUIET, YOU GARRULOUS FOOL! I WANT THE UNDISTURBED PLEASURE OF SEEING THEM COME UP!

MOMENTS LATER THERE WAS A RIPPLING OF THE WATER... AND THEN...
HERE THEY COME... MY BEAUTIFUL... MY HANDSOME.. MY STRONG FRIENDS!
NO!
LOOK AT THEM! HA! HA! HA! THE POWERFUL ROD BAKER! THE OH SO HANDSOME FRANK KENDALL... AND THE LOVELY ANN, THE HEM OF WHOSE SKIRT I WAS UNFIT TO TOUCH!
BUT I CAN FONDLE THE HEM OF HER SKIRT NOW, OR HER ROBE!
YOU'RE A MADMAN! I SUSPECTED IT WHEN I'D COME TO YOUR ROOM BEFORE YOU WERE AWAKE AND HEARD YOU MUTTERING YOUR HATRED FOR THESE INNOCENT PEOPLE!
I HAD A PREMONITION YOU WOULD DO SOMETHING TO THEM! I REMEMBER THE GUINEA PIG AND HOW I FOUND IT'S SKELETON IN THE TANK ON THE LAB TABLE!
HA! HA! I WAS HAPPY THAT DAY! IT WAS THE DAY I INVENTED THE FORMULA THAT WOULD DESTROY EVERY VESTIGE OF ANIMAL FLESH IN A FEW MOMENTS!
SOMETHING TOLD ME TO GO TO THE LABORATORY A LITTLE WHILE AGO... IF ONLY I HAD DONE IT SOONER I'D HAVE KNOWN WHAT YOU WERE PLANNING!
I KNEW YOU'D BEEN SPYING ON ME! IT'S THE REASON I DIDN'T SEND YOU AWAY TODAY... BECAUSE I'D HAVE TO DESTROY YOU ANYWAY!
IN FACT I'M GOING TO DO IT RIGHT NOW!


AAAAGHH!
INTO THE POOL OF THE SKELETONS, JARVIS! THERE'S ENOUGH OF MY PRECIOUS FORMULA TO DESTROY ANY OTHER ENEMIES I MAY HAVE TO!
EAGERLY AVERY LAWTON WATCHED AS THE BODY OF HIS BUTLER SANK. THEN ROSE TO THE SURFACE...
HA! HA! YOU'VE CHANGED TOO, JARVIS YOU'VE LOST YOUR BUTLERS DIGNITY!


MY BEAUTIFUL POOL OF SKELETONS! TOO BAD I'LL HAVE TO REMOVE THESE SHINY BONES BEFORE THE OTHER SERVANTS RETURN! BUT THERE'S TIME... I SHALL SIT DOWN AND ENJOY THE SPECTACLE!
AND THEN AS AVERY LAWTON MOVED AWAY HIS FOOT CAUGHT IN THE BELT OF ANN'S ROBE...
WH···WHA...?


AS IF REACHING OUT FOR HIM FROM DEATH ANN KENDALL SEEMED TO BE USING HER FLIMSY EARTHLY POSSESSION TO BRING AVERY LAWTON INTO THE POOL OF HORROR
HELP!
AND A MOMENT LATER, THE HOST HAD COME TO THE SURFACE OF THE POOL HE HAD SHUNNED EARLIER TO LEAD HIS GUESTS AND HIS BUTLER IN A MACABRE SWIM...

THE END

SURE, AND THE MAN WAS A FOOL TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH---

THE CREATURES

THEY TELL THE TALE STILL ON SCOTTISH MOORS NEAR THE TOWN OF CRAGHEAD. THE TALE OF RORY MACDONNELL AND THAT NIGHT AT THE LION PUB, WHEN THE TALK TURNED TO THINGS NOT IN OUR KEN...

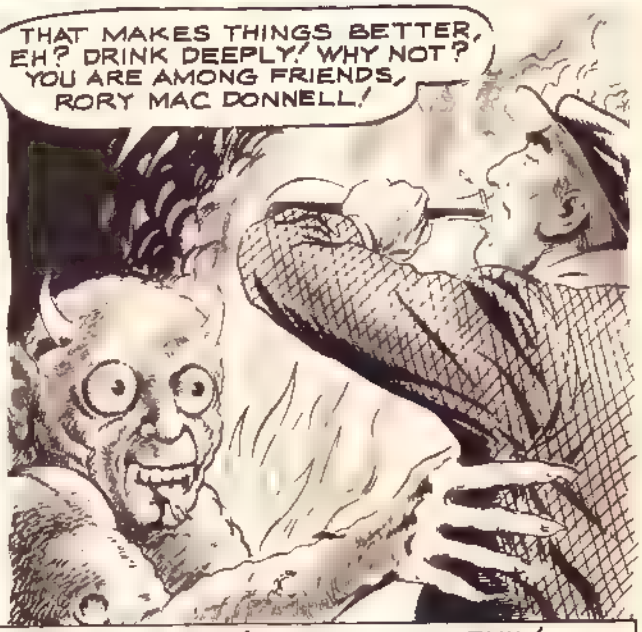
HAVE I, NOW? SO IT'S OUT OF BOTTLE COURAGE YOU THINK I SPEAK, EH? THIS IS RORY MACDONNELL, AND I FEAR NO MAN, BIG OR LITTLE!
IT'S BEST TO FEAR WHAT WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND. MY FATHER WAS AFRAID OF CRAGHEAD CAVE, AND HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM. WHO KNOWS WHAT LIVES INSIDE IT?
BAH! THERE ARE NO LITTLE PEOPLE! AND IF THERE WERE, I'D STILL HAVE NO FEAR OF THEM! D'YA HEAR THAT, LITTLE MEN? IF YOU EXIST... DO YOUR WORK!
HE PAID NO MIND TO THE STRANGER WHO JUST THEN ENTERED! BUT THE STRANGER MUST HAVE HEARD!
YOU'RE A MAN OF RARE COURAGE, RORY... TO HEAR YOU TELL IT! BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WORDS SHOULD BE BACKED BY DEEDS!
DOES IT, TRULY? YOU KNOW MY NAME, BUT JUST WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
A TRAVELER! BUT I'VE HEARD OF CRAGHEAD CAVE! I'VE HEARD IT'S WHERE THE LITTLE PEOPLE LIVE! YOU'VE BEEN INSIDE THE CAVE, I TAKE IT?
NOT HIM! HE'S ALL WIND AND NO SUBSTANCE!
WHO SAID THAT?
WHAT MATTER? THEY'RE ONLY VOICES IN A CROWD, RORY! BUT WHY NOT SHOW THEM? PROVE YOUR WORTH! THE CAVE IS NOT FAR!

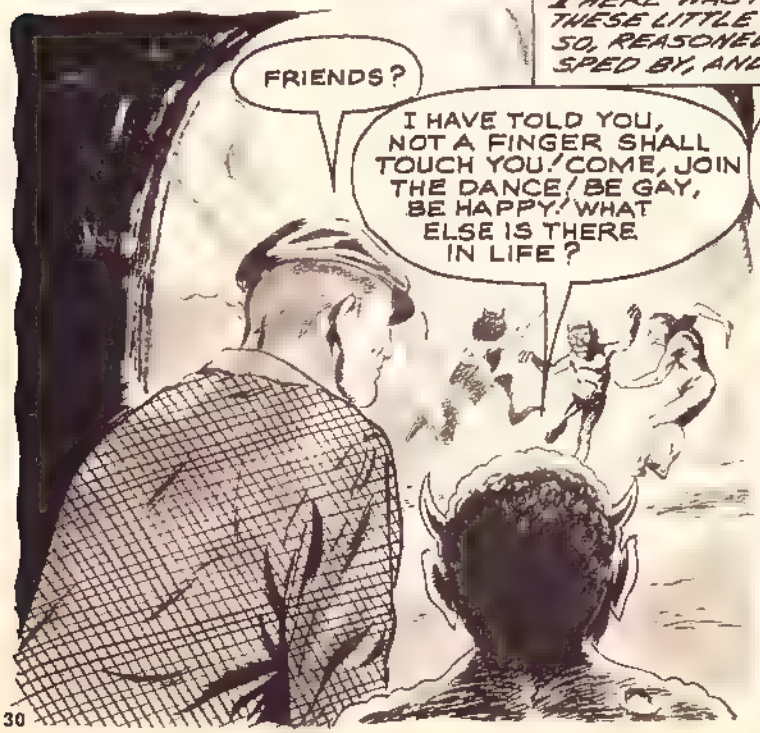
AND D'YOU THINK I'M AFTER PLAYIN' CHILDS GAMES THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
YOU MIGHT BE HIDING YOUR FEAR BEHIND THIS LOUD BLATHER!
WORDS ARE CHEAP! WILL YOU WAGER TWENTY SHILLINGS, RORY MACDONNEL, THAT YOU FEAR TO SPEND THIS NIGHT IN CRAGHEAD CAVE!
THERE WERE THOSE WHO WAITED FOR RORY TO REFUSE... THAT THEY MIGHT THROW HIS BOASTING INTO HIS TEETH... NOW, THEN, COULD HE SAY NO?
DONE! FOR TWENTY SHILLINGS I'D FACE THE DEVIL HIMSELF!
DONE IT IS, THEN! AND WHO KNOWS, PERHAPS BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS OVER... YOU'LL DO JUST THAT
THEY POURED INTO THE NIGHT THEN A NOISY LAUGHING CROWD! BUT THERE WERE THOSE WITH COOLER HEADS THAN THE REST!
THERE IT IS, RORY! PERHAPS THE TALES ARE ONLY THAT, TALES! BUT PERHAPS NOT! FORGET THIS WAGER! NO MAN HAS ENTERED THE CAVE FOR YEARS!
THAT'S BECAUSE UNTIL TODAY, NO MAN LIKE RORY MACDONNELL HAS PASSED THIS WAY!
WELL SPOKEN, MAC DONNEL, BUT OUR WAGER WAS THAT YOU SPEND THE NIGHT INSIDE!
AND I WILL... I'LL BRING YOU BACK A LITTLE MAN FOR A PET!
ONLY A MAN IN HIS CURS WOULD HAVE GONE ON THEN! CRAGHEAD CAVE WAS DOUR AND FORBIDDING! BUT RORY MACDONNEL PLUNGED INTO THAT EMPTY BLACKNESS!
THE COLD IS ENOUGH TO FREEZE A MANS BONES!

COLD? 'TWAS NOT COLD, BUT FEAR THAT CHILLED MAC DONNELL! YET, HE WENT ON, FEARING THE LAUGHTER OF HIS FRIENDS MORE THAN HE FEARED THE CAVE! SUDDENLY, HE WAS UPON THEM!
THE LITTLE PEOPLE! THE TALES ARE NOT JUST TALES! THEY EXIST!

WOULD YOU RUN, THEN, MAN? FROM WHAT? WE WISH YOU NO HARM! WE SHALL NOT PUT A HAND ON YOU! MY WORD ON IT! COME... DRINK WITH US!

UGLY, THEY WERE! HORRIBLE! SOME LIKE TOADS, OTHERS LIKE NOTHING THAT LIVES! BUT, THEY SMILED! THEY WERE FRIENDLY! AND WHAT WAS IN THOSE FLASKS WAS LIKE A MAGNET TO RORY MAC DONNELL!
IT'S ALMOST SOBER YOU ARE! A BAD STATE FOR SUCH A MAN AS YOU! DRINK WITH US!


THAT MAKES THINGS BETTER, EH? DRINK DEEPLY! WHY NOT? YOU ARE AMONG FRIENDS, RORY MAC DONNELL!


THERE WAS NO MAGIC. THIS WAS NO EVIL! THESE LITTLE MEN... THEY KNEW THEIR BETTERS! SO, REASONED RORY MACDONNELL! THE HOURS SPED BY, AND IT SEEMED TO HIM HE WAS A KING!
FRIENDS?
I HAVE TOLD YOU, NOT A FINGER SHALL TOUCH YOU! COME, JOIN THE DANCE! BE GAY, BE HAPPY! WHAT ELSE IS THERE IN LIFE?

IT IS A GOOD LIFE WE LEAD, IS IT NOT, RORY MAC DONNELL? IT SUITS YOU WELL!
WELL ENOUGH! SO LONG AS YOU KEEP YOUR PLACE! THE NIGHT HAS BEEN PLEASANT! A PITY IT WILL SOON BE DAWN! THEN I MUST LEAVE!

BUT THERE WILL BE OTHER NIGHTS! 'TIS A GREAT ADMIRATION WE HAVE FOR YOU, MAC-DONNEL! WILL YOU BE ONE OF US, THEN?
THAT I WILL! HERE IS MY HAND ON IT!
IT SEEMED TO RORY THAT THERE WAS A A GREAT RUSTLING SOUND OF WINGS! THEN, IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT THE FIRE-LIGHT DIED...THAT THE UGLY FACES AROUND HIM TWISTED AND SNARLED...
WHAT...IS IT? THE WINE! IT'S CLOUDED MY EYES! YOU...YOU SEEM DIFFERENT. TALLER!
TALLER? WE ARE NOT TALLER, MACDONNEL! WE HAVE NOT CHANGED, BUT YOU HAVE!
DID YOU NOT SAY THAT YOU WISHED TO BE ONE OF US? COURAGE DESERVES A REWARD MAC DONNEL! EVEN THE COURAGE OF A BRAGGART!
YOU ARE TRULY ONE OF US, NOW!
GONE WAS THE HANDSOME BODY! GONE, THE POWERFUL SHOULDERS, THE MASSIVE ARMS! WHAT WAS REFLECTED IN THE WEIRD, STRANGELY WORKED GLASS WAS... HORROR! MAC DONNELL SCREAMED...AND RAN!
THE LITTLE PEOPLE DO EXIST, DO THEY NOT, MAC DONNELL?

THE WAY WAS DARK, THE ROCKS SHARP! MAC DONNELL MUST HAVE STUMBLED OFTEN! HE BLED WHEN HE REACHED THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE AT LAST! AND IN THE EYES OF THOSE WHO WAITED HE SAW THAT THIS WAS NO DREAM!
RORY! WHAT IS IT? WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE?
RORY, DON'T YOU KNOW US?
IT WAS THEN THAT RORY CHARGED! KNOWING ONLY ONE THING... THAT HE MUST GET AWAY FROM THOSE STARING EYES! HOW COULD HE KNOW THAT THE GLASS HAD LIED!
THAT BLOOD! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU...
LOOK OUT! THE MAN'S GONE DAFT!
IT WAS A MADMAN WHO CHARGED ..AND RAVED ABOUT WHAT THE LITTLE PEOPLE HAD DONE TO HIM!
HE'S LOST HIS MIND! HE THINKS HE'S BECOME ONE OF THE LITTLE PEOPLE! HE REALLY THINKS HE'S FOUND THEM!
PERHAPS HE DID! WHO KNOWS?
DRUNK HE WAS! PERHAPS HE IMAGINED IT ALL! BUT HE SHOULDN'T HAVE CHALLENGED THE LITTLE PEOPLE! I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT THEY NEVER REFUSE A CHALLENGE!
POOR LAD! HE'S INSANE! HE'LL NEVER BE TELLING THE TRUTH OF WHAT HE SAW IN CRAGHEAD CAVE, NOW, WILL HE?
THE STRANGER WALKED AWAY, THEN! AND IT SEEMED THAT HE CHANGED, BUT NONE NOTICED! SO.. THE TALE IS TOLD..
THE END
CRAGHEAD CAVE BROODS UNDISTURBED TO THIS DAY! AND, WHO IS TO SAY.. WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO RORY MAC DONNELL?

Superstitions

CURSE of the VAMPIRE

VINCE FOWLER WAS A RUTHLESS, MONEY-MAD OIL TYCOON. WHEN ONE OF FOWLER'S TESTERS DETECTED THE BLACK GOLD BENEATH AN OLD INDIAN BURIAL GROUNDS, HE THOUGHT NOTHING OF DISRUPTING THIS LAST RESTING PLACE OF THE **DEAD**!

I'M TELLING YOU, BOSS, I DON'T LIKE THIS JOB OF **DISTURBIN' THE DEAD**! IT GIVES ME THE **CREEPS**!

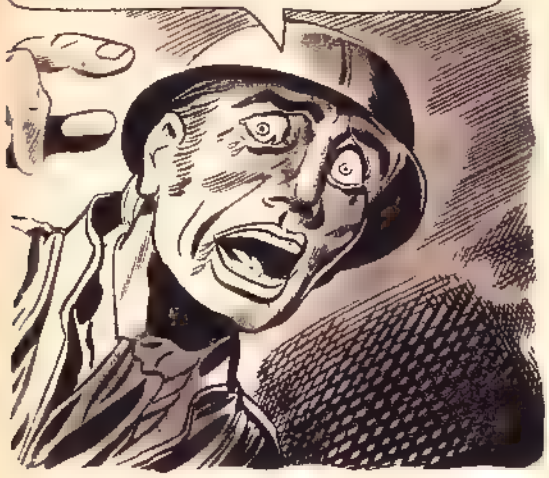
BALONEY! A BIG GUY LIKE YOU, AFRAID OF THE **BONES** OF LONG-**DEAD** SAVAGES?

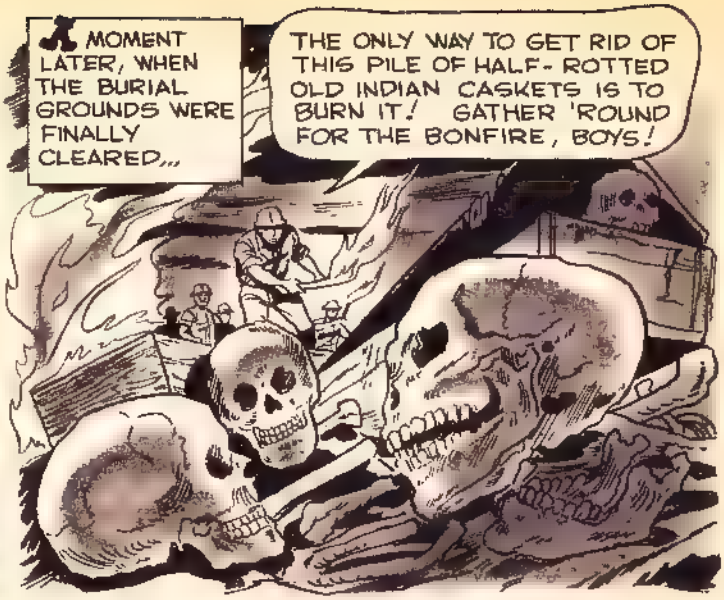
SUDDENLY

VINCE FOWLER YOU WILL BE **CURSED** WITH **HORRIBLE PUNISHMENT** FOR THIS NIGHT'S **SACRILEGE**!

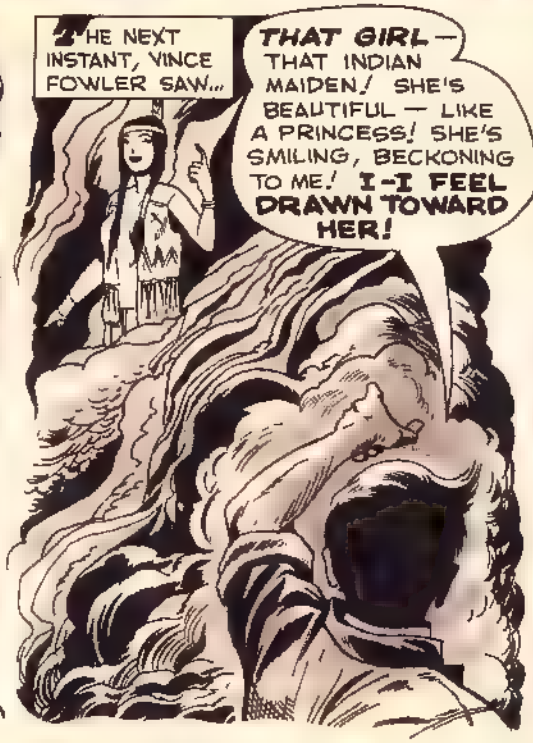
HUH? **WHAT?** WHERE DID **YOU** COME FROM, OLD HAG?

THIS WAS THE **BURIAL GROUND** OF MY FELLOW TRIBESMEN WHO ARE **FOREVER CURSED**, AND SO IS THE GROUND IN WHICH THEY **ROTTED**! NOW THAT SAME CURSE WILL BE UPON **YOU**, GREEDY ONE!

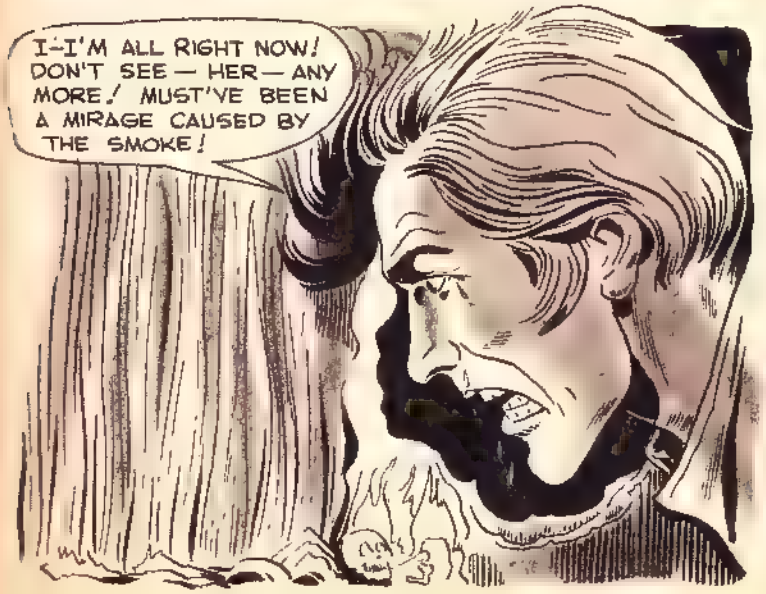

ARE YOU PUTTING ME ON, OLD LADY? WHY, YOU — *WHERE IS SHE?* **SHE'S VANISHED!** SEEMED TO MELT RIGHT INTO THIN AIR AND DISAPPEAR!


A MOMENT LATER, WHEN THE BURIAL GROUNDS WERE FINALLY CLEARED...
THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF THIS PILE OF HALF-ROTTED OLD INDIAN CASKETS IS TO BURN IT! GATHER 'ROUND FOR THE BONFIRE, BOYS!

MY EYES! THAT BLASTED BLACK, MUSTY SMOKE HAS **BLINDED** ME! I'M GETTING **DIZZY!** FEEL SO — SO **STRANGE!**


THE NEXT INSTANT, VINCE FOWLER SAW...
THAT GIRL — THAT INDIAN MAIDEN! SHE'S BEAUTIFUL — LIKE A PRINCESS! SHE'S SMILING, BECKONING TO ME! **I-I FEEL DRAWN TOWARD HER!**

THE INDIAN GIRL — MUST GET TO HER! LET ME GO! I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE FLAMES!
EASY, MR. FOWLER! YOU'D BURN TO A CRISP! THOSE SMOKE FUMES MUST'VE DRIVEN YOU MAD!

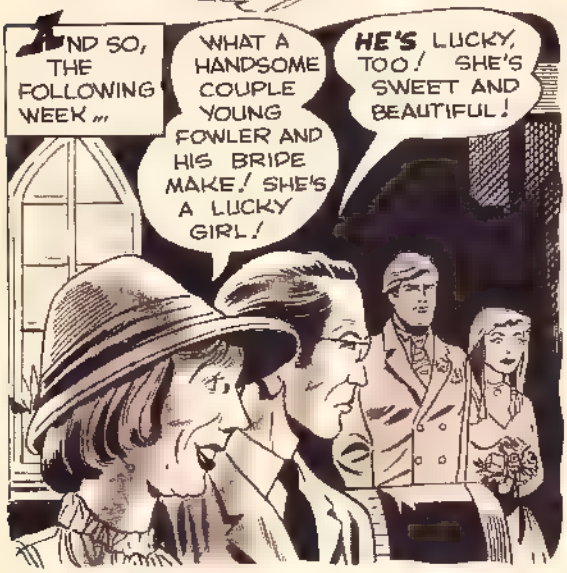

I-I'M ALL RIGHT NOW! DON'T SEE — HER — ANY MORE! MUST'VE BEEN A MIRAGE CAUSED BY THE SMOKE!

WEEKS LATER...
WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS! YOU'D NEVER KNOW THAT OIL FIELD USED TO BE AN INDIAN BURIAL GROUND! THINK I'LL STOP IN FOR SOME COFFEE!

GREAT SCOTT! SHE LOOKS LIKE THE SAME GIRL I SAW IN THE SMOKE AND FLAMES OF THE BURNING CASKETS! I— I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
COFFEE, SIR?

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BEAUTIFUL? I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR A LONG TIME, AND I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU!
I'M MARIA. FUNNY, BUT I FEEL THE SAME ABOUT YOU!

IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, FOWLER'S WHIRLWIND COURTSHIP SWEPT THE DARK AND LOVELY MARIA OFF HER FEET!


AND SO, THE FOLLOWING WEEK...
WHAT A HANDSOME COUPLE YOUNG FOWLER AND HIS BRIDE MAKE! SHE'S A LUCKY GIRL!
HE'S LUCKY, TOO! SHE'S SWEET AND BEAUTIFUL!

CREATURE OF EVIL! I CANNOT PERMIT THIS MARRIAGE! BACK TO YOUR GRAVE, FOUL BEING!
VINCE! STOP HER! SAVE ME!

DIE AGAIN! DIE! DIE! BACK TO YOUR CURSED GRAVE!
SHE'S STABBED MARIA! GRAB HER!
SHE STABBED YOU! I SAW IT, MARIA— YET YOU'RE NOT HURT! THERE'S NO WOUND!
YOU—ER—MUST'VE BEEN MISTAKEN, VINCE! MAYBE THE BLADE TURNED ASIDE AT THE LAST MOMENT!

A FEW HOURS AFTER THE STRANGE ATTACK AT THE CHURCH ...

WHAT DID THAT UGLY OLD CRONE MEAN, MARIA — CALLING YOU A *CREATURE OF EVIL* AND ALL THAT STUFF?

FORGET IT, VINCE! SHE MUST'VE BEEN **INSANE**!

ALL RIGHT, SWEETHEART! NOW, HOW ABOUT A KISS FROM MY NEW BRIDE? I— *MARIA*! WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU? YOU'RE ***CHANGING***!

CHANGING, VINCE? HOW? I- I ***DO*** FEEL A LITTLE ***STRANGE***!

YOU- YOU'VE BECOME A **VAMPIRE**! THAT OLD CRONE WAS **RIGHT**! YOU ***ARE*** EVIL — OF ANOTHER WORLD!

BE CALM, MY HUSBAND! IT WILL NOT LAST LONG! BUT NOW I MUST LEAVE YOU FOR A WHILE!

NO, MARIA! YOU CAN'T...

I *MUST* GO! GET OUT OF MY WAY! NOTHING CAN STOP ME!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER, AT THE DANCE HALL WHERE SOME OF FOWLER'S OIL WORKERS WERE CELEBRATING HIS WEDDING ...

WH- WHERE DID THAT CREATURE COME FROM? SHE'S A **VAMPIRE**! SHE'S KILLING JAKE! SOMEBODY HELP HIM!

NEEEEED

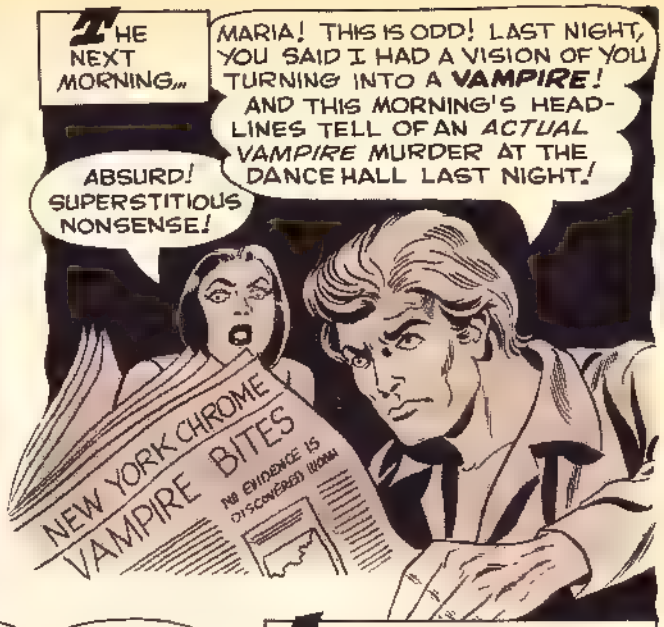
SHE'S GETTING AWAY!

HER MAD CRAVINGS APPEASED, MARIA RETURNED HOME, IN HER HUMAN FORM ONCE AGAIN ...

WH- WHAT HAPPENED? OOOOOH, MY HEAD!

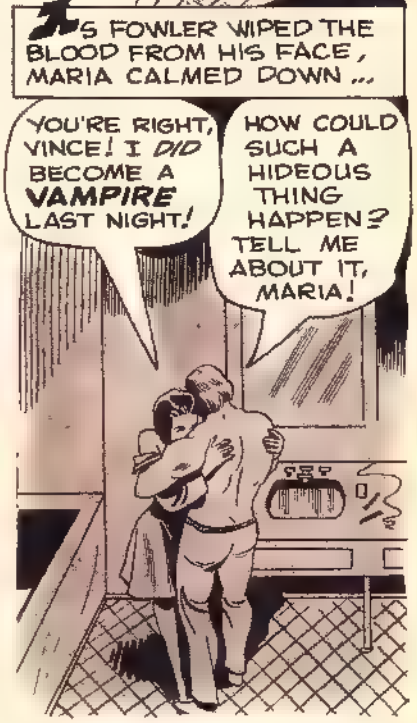
EASY, DARLING! YOU HAD A STRANGE HALLUCINATION THAT I TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE! YOU GREW VIOLENT AND WHEN I STRUGGLED WITH YOU, YOU FELL AND BLACKED OUT!

YES, I-I DO REMEMBER SOME HORRIBLE VISION LIKE THAT! MUST'VE BEEN AS YOU SAID!
OF COURSE, DARLING! NOW RELAX AND REST, AND FORGET ABOUT IT!

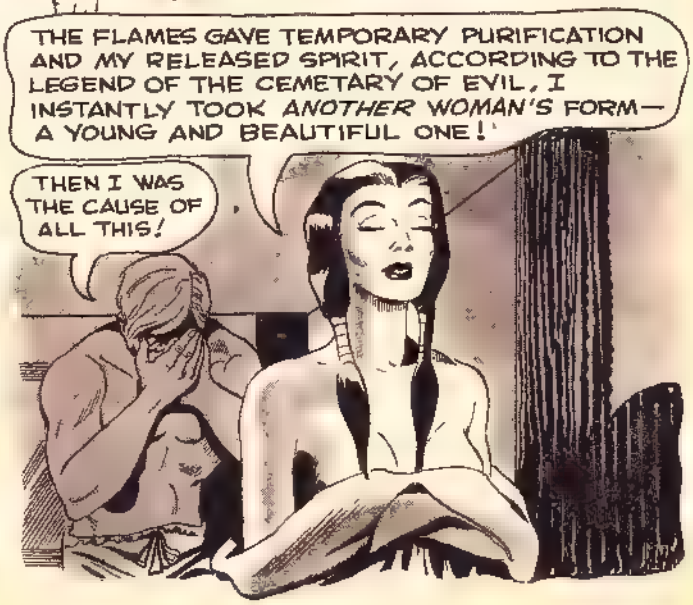

THE NEXT MORNING...
MARIA! THIS IS ODD! LAST NIGHT, YOU SAID I HAD A VISION OF YOU TURNING INTO A VAMPIRE! AND THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES TELL OF AN ACTUAL VAMPIRE MURDER AT THE DANCE HALL LAST NIGHT!
ABSURD! SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE!
NEW YORK CHROME
VAMPIRE BITES
NO EVIDENCE IS DISCOVERED YET

A LITTLE LATER...
I'VE NICKED MY FACE WITH THE RAZOR, MARIA!
YOU— YOU'RE BLEEDING! BLOOD!

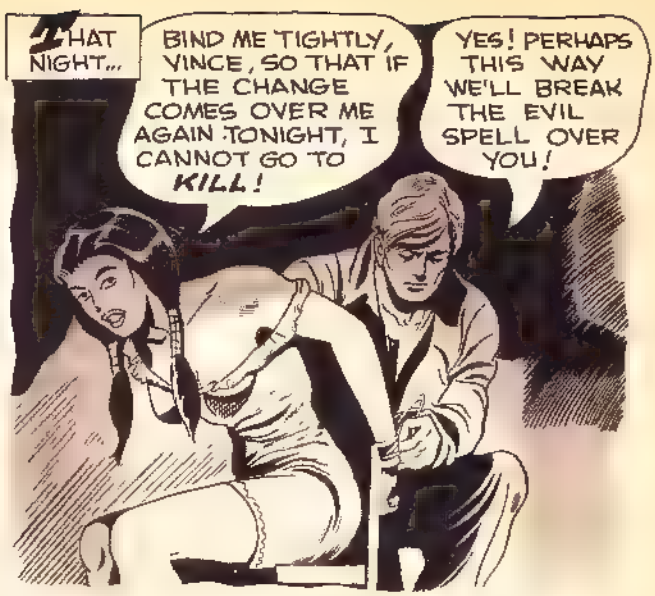
BLOOD! THE SIGHT OF BLOOD DRIVES ME MAD! MAD! I MUST...
STOP IT! I'M VINCENT, YOUR HUSBAND! YOU- YOU WOULDN'T ATTACK ME!


AS FOWLER WIPED THE BLOOD FROM HIS FACE, MARIA CALMED DOWN...
YOU'RE RIGHT, VINCE! I DID BECOME A VAMPIRE LAST NIGHT!
HOW COULD SUCH A HIDEOUS THING HAPPEN? TELL ME ABOUT IT, MARIA!

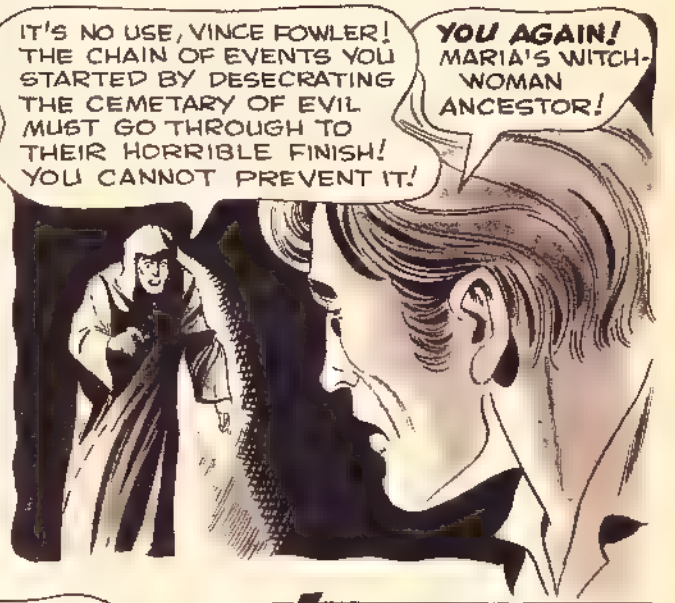
OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, I WAS AN INDIAN PRINCESS OF TAINTED BLOOD! I WAS CAUGHT PRACTICING VAMPIRISM, WAS EXECUTED AND BURIED IN THE CEMETARY OF EVIL! WHEN YOUR MEN DUG UP THE GRAVES AND BURNED THE CASKETS, A STRANGE THING HAPPENED!


THE FLAMES GAVE TEMPORARY PURIFICATION AND MY RELEASED SPIRIT, ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND OF THE CEMETARY OF EVIL, I INSTANTLY TOOK ANOTHER WOMAN'S FORM— A YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL ONE!
THEN I WAS THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS!

YES, VINCE, AND NOW YOU MUST HELP ME! AN INDIAN WITCH WOMAN TRIED TO WARN YOU THE NIGHT YOU SAW ME IN THE SMOKE AND THEN TRIED TO DESTROY ME!
I WILL HELP YOU, MARIA!

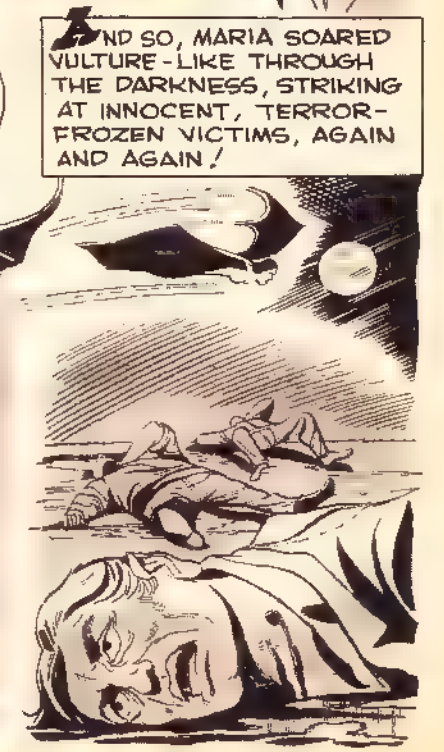

THAT NIGHT...
BIND ME TIGHTLY, VINCE, SO THAT IF THE CHANGE COMES OVER ME AGAIN TONIGHT, I CANNOT GO TO KILL!
YES! PERHAPS THIS WAY WE'LL BREAK THE EVIL SPELL OVER YOU!

LATER...
BUT YOU MUST RELEASE ME! I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR YOU— GIVE YOU SUPERNATURAL POWERS!
NO! I-I CAN'T! PERHAPS IT WILL LAST ONLY A LITTLE LONGER! CAN'T LET HER HYPNOTIZE ME INTO FREEING HER! I MUST BE STRONG!


IT'S NO USE, VINCE FOWLER! THE CHAIN OF EVENTS YOU STARTED BY DESECRATING THE CEMETARY OF EVIL MUST GO THROUGH TO THEIR HORRIBLE FINISH! YOU CANNOT PREVENT IT!
YOU AGAIN! MARIA'S WITCH-WOMAN ANCESTOR!

YOU WENT AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE DEVIL-GODS BY DESTROYING THE BURIAL GROUNDS! NOW YOU MUST PAY THE PENALTY!
I'M GETTING CONFUSED — SLEEPY... WEAK-WILLED!

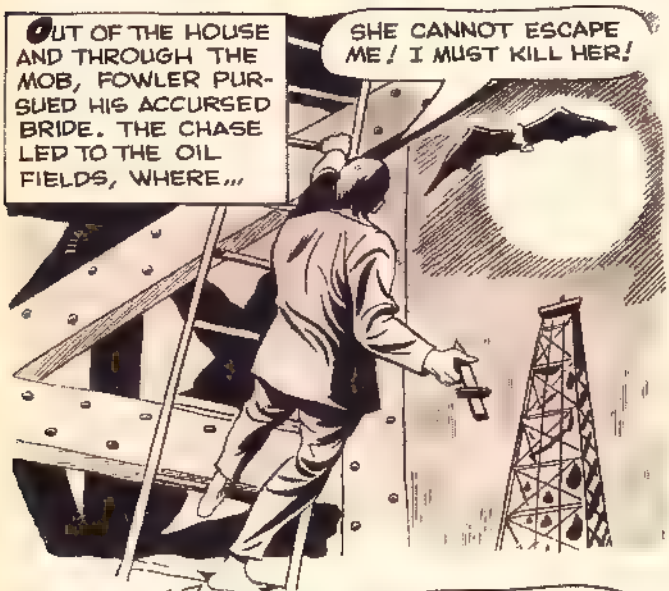
THERE — YOU'RE FREE! NOW GO TO YOUR EVIL WORK! IT IS THE ONLY WAY FOR THIS TO END NOW!
YES! YES! I WILL FIND MANY VICTIMS TONIGHT!


AND SO, MARIA SOARED VULTURE-LIKE THROUGH THE DARKNESS, STRIKING AT INNOCENT, TERROR-FROZEN VICTIMS, AGAIN AND AGAIN!

THE NEXT MORNING...
SOMETHING'S WRONG! I DIDN'T CHANGE BACK TO HUMAN FORM AT DAWN! AN ANGRY MOB HAS PURSUED ME HERE! HELP ME, VINCE!
YOU ARE HIDEOUS IN DAYLIGHT, MARIA! UGH!

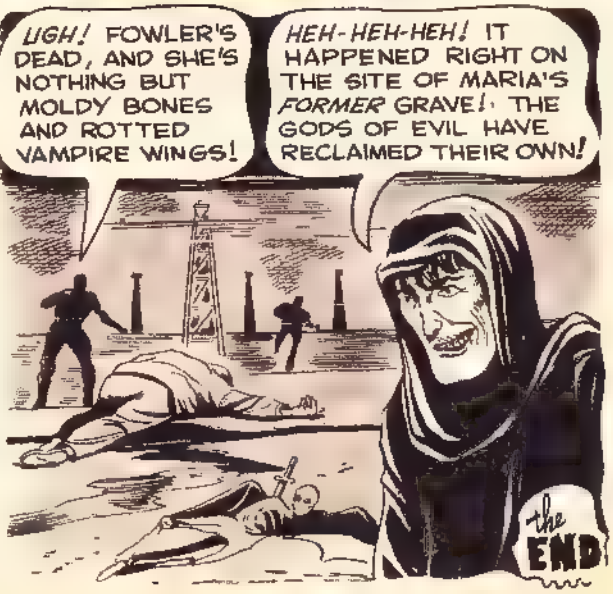
WE FOLLOWED THE VAMPIRE HERE, FOWLER! WE DEMAND YOU TURN HER OVER TO US!
WHAT DISGRACE, WHAT HORROR YOU'VE BROUGHT TO ME, MARIA! I- I CANNOT STAND IT ANY MORE!

I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF!
NO! YOU ALONE CAN KILL ME! YOU, WHO GAVE ME NEW LIFE, ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO THAT! I- I MUST FLEE YOU!


OUT OF THE HOUSE AND THROUGH THE MOB, FOWLER PURSUED HIS ACCURSED BRIDE. THE CHASE LED TO THE OIL FIELDS, WHERE...
SHE CANNOT ESCAPE ME! I MUST KILL HER!

YOU CANNOT CAPTURE ME! I'M WINGED AND CAN FLY FROM — ARRRRGGH!
GOT HER!

EEEEEYIIEEEE!
FOWLER'S LOST HIS GRIP! HE'S FALLING, TOO!


UGH! FOWLER'S DEAD, AND SHE'S NOTHING BUT MOLDY BONES AND ROTTED VAMPIRE WINGS!
HEH-HEH-HEH! IT HAPPENED RIGHT ON THE SITE OF MARIA'S FORMER GRAVE! THE GODS OF EVIL HAVE RECLAIMED THEIR OWN!
the END

WEIRD FACTS

NOW, WHAT MAKES YOU DELIGHTFUL GHOULISH FIENDS THINK I'M PUTTING YOU ON?---DID YOU KNOW THAT UNTIL RECENT TIMES, NO MAN WITH THE NAME OF GEORGE, HAD EVER BEEN HANGED?---THINK I'M SPOOFING YOU?--THEN, CHECK THE RECORD!--AND SPEAKING OF RECORDS, HERE ARE SOME RECIPES TAKEN FROM AN APOTHECARY'S PERSCRIPTION BOOK!

HUMAN SKULLS

REDUCED TO POWDER and MIXED WITH RED WINE WERE RECOMMENDED FOR THE CURING OF EPILEPSY and DYSENTERY. *DRINK,--ANYONE?*

COFFIN RINGS

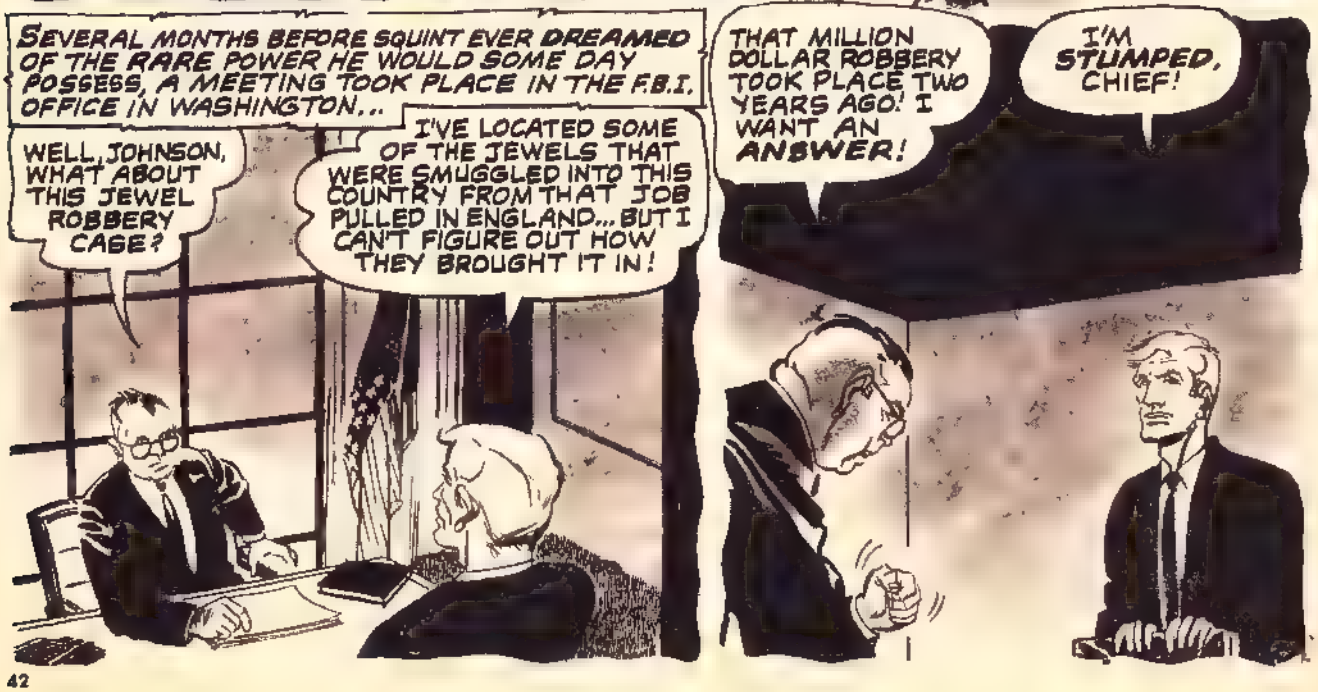
WHEN DUG OUT OF A GRAVE ... *WILL CURE RHEUMATISM!* ... DO YOUR BONES HURT? --HMMMN?

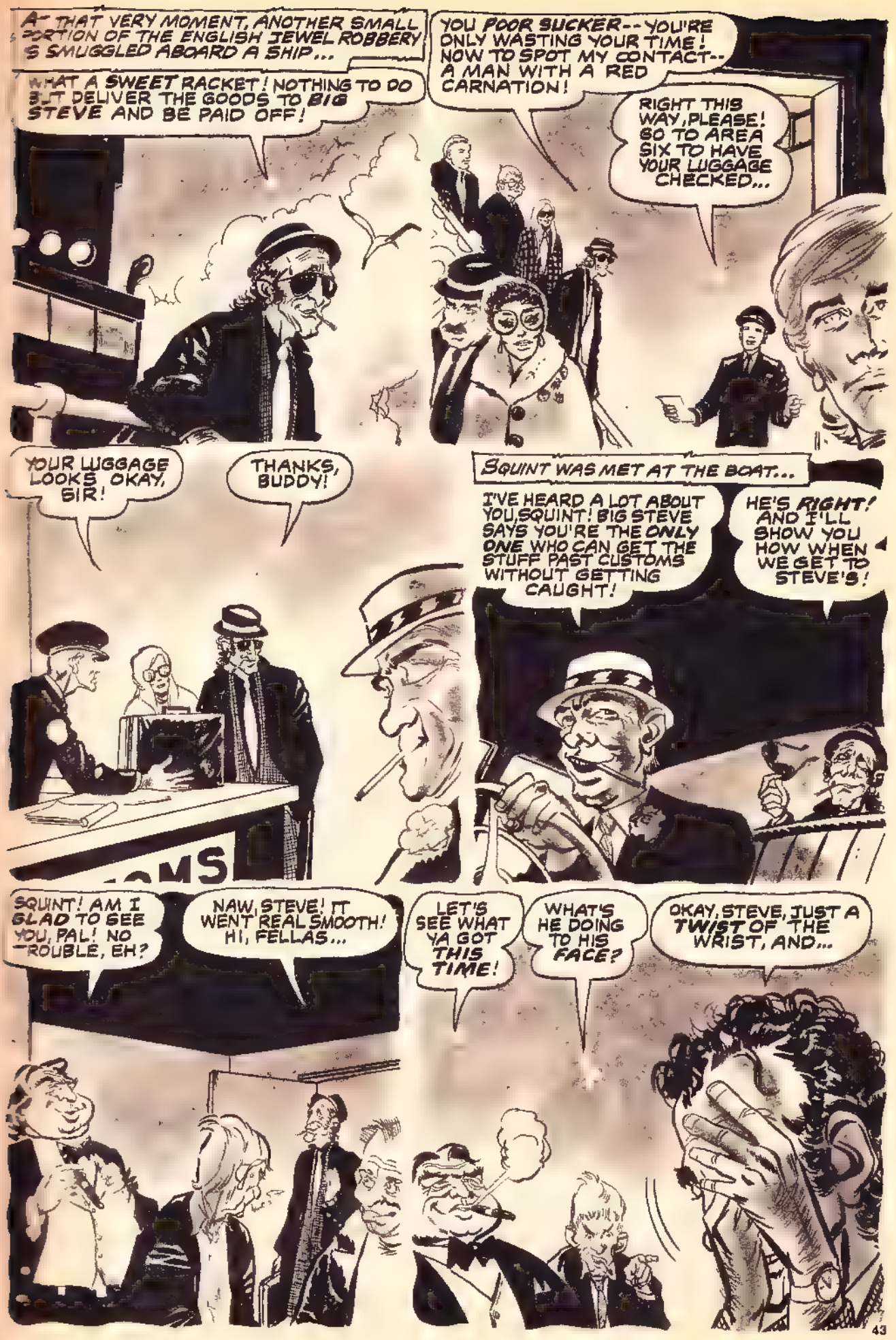
IF ... A FRUIT TREE BLOOMS and FRUITS TWICE IN A SEASON, A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OWNING THE TREE, WILL DIE BEFORE THE YEAR IS OUT!

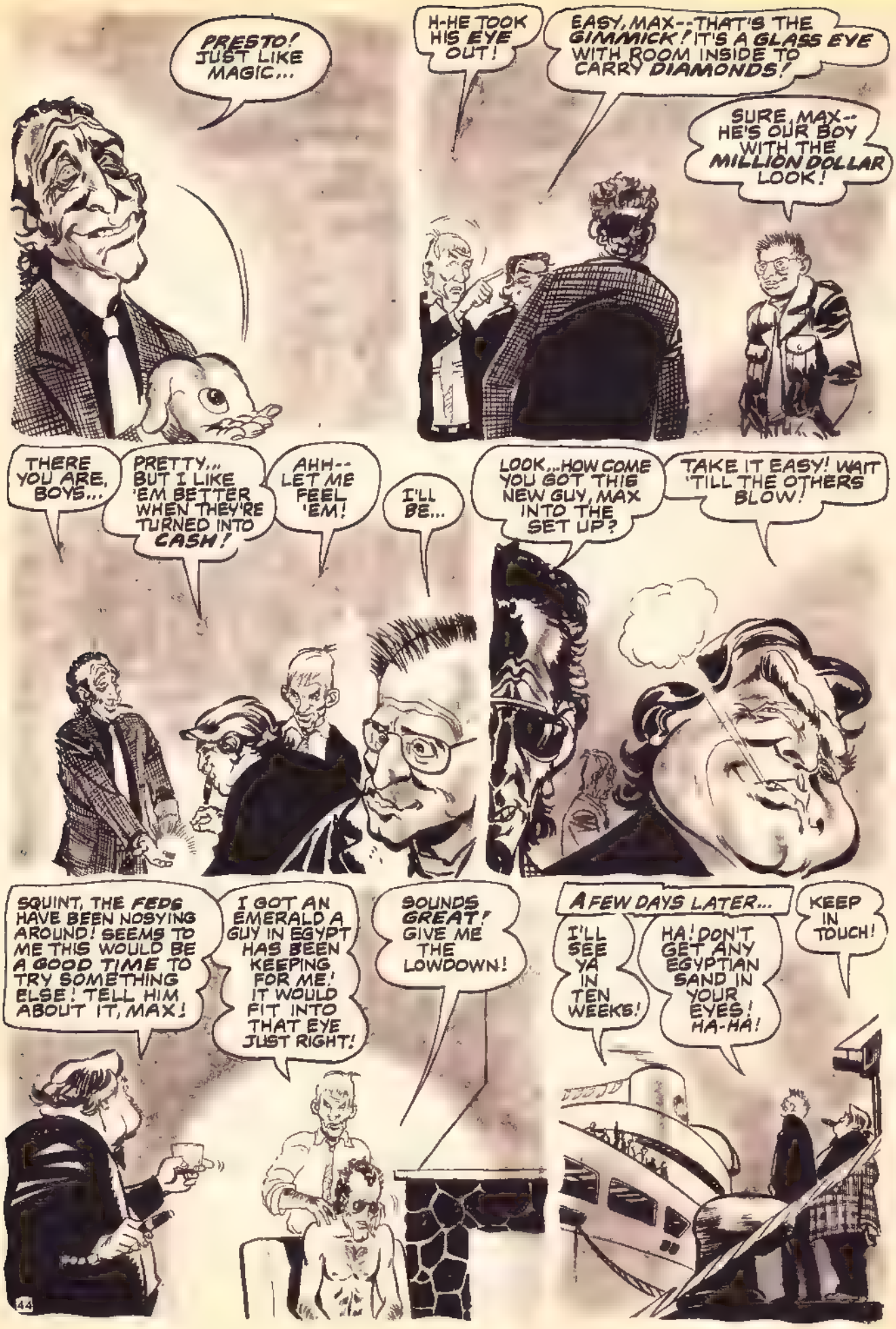
.... BE MY GUEST! ENJOY! ENJOY! --TILL NEXT WE MEET.

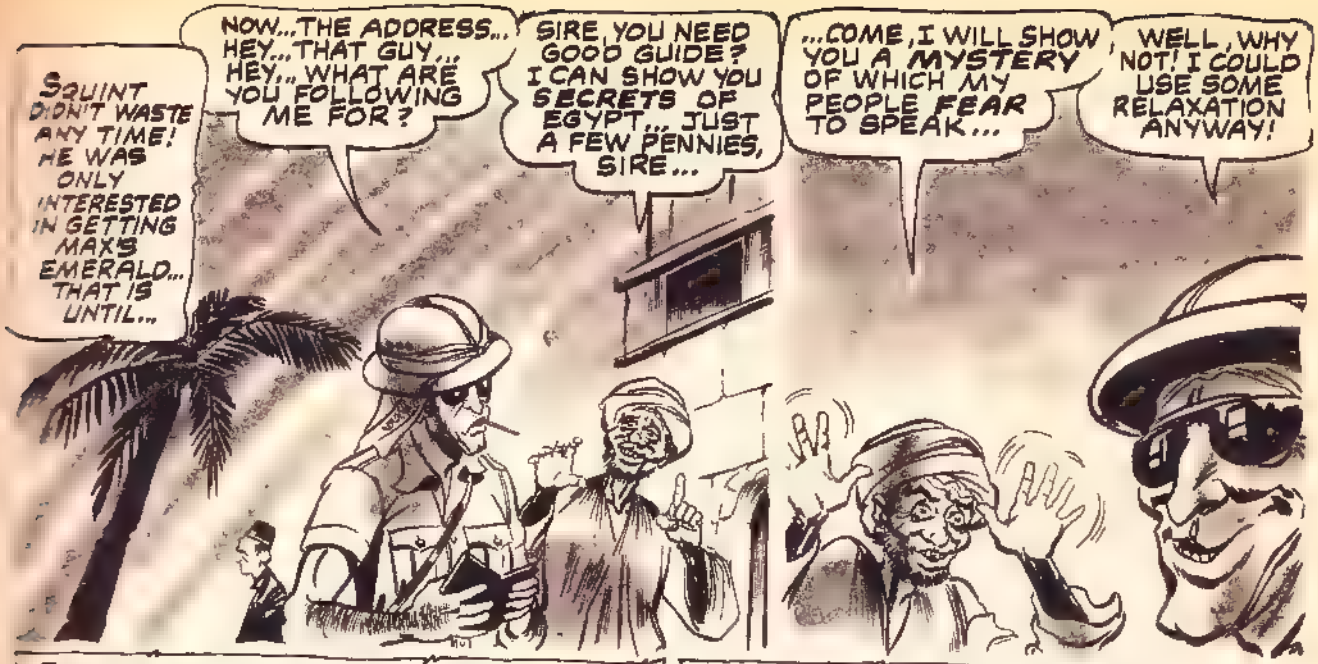
EVERYONE HAS HEARD AND LAUGHED AT THE EXPRESSION, "IF LOOKS COULD KILL!"! THIS IS THE STORY OF BOSS SQUINT...A MAN WHO FOUND THAT HE HAD THIS STRANGE POWER...

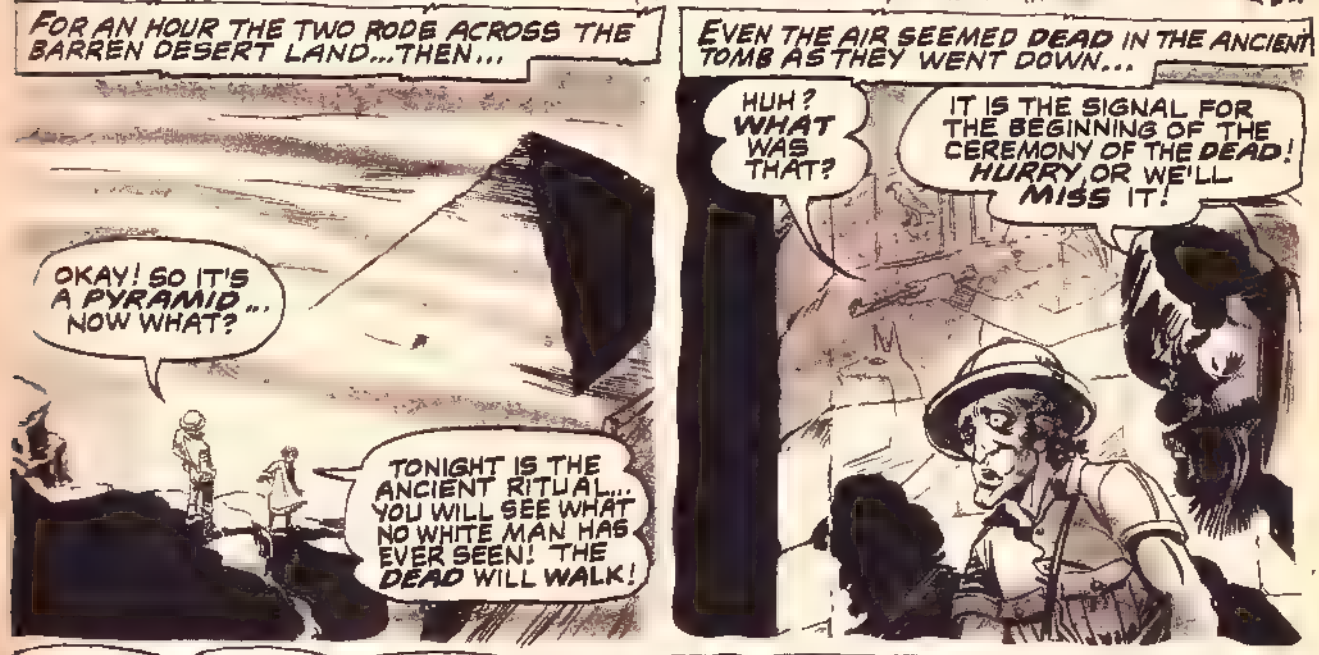
THE MUMMIES

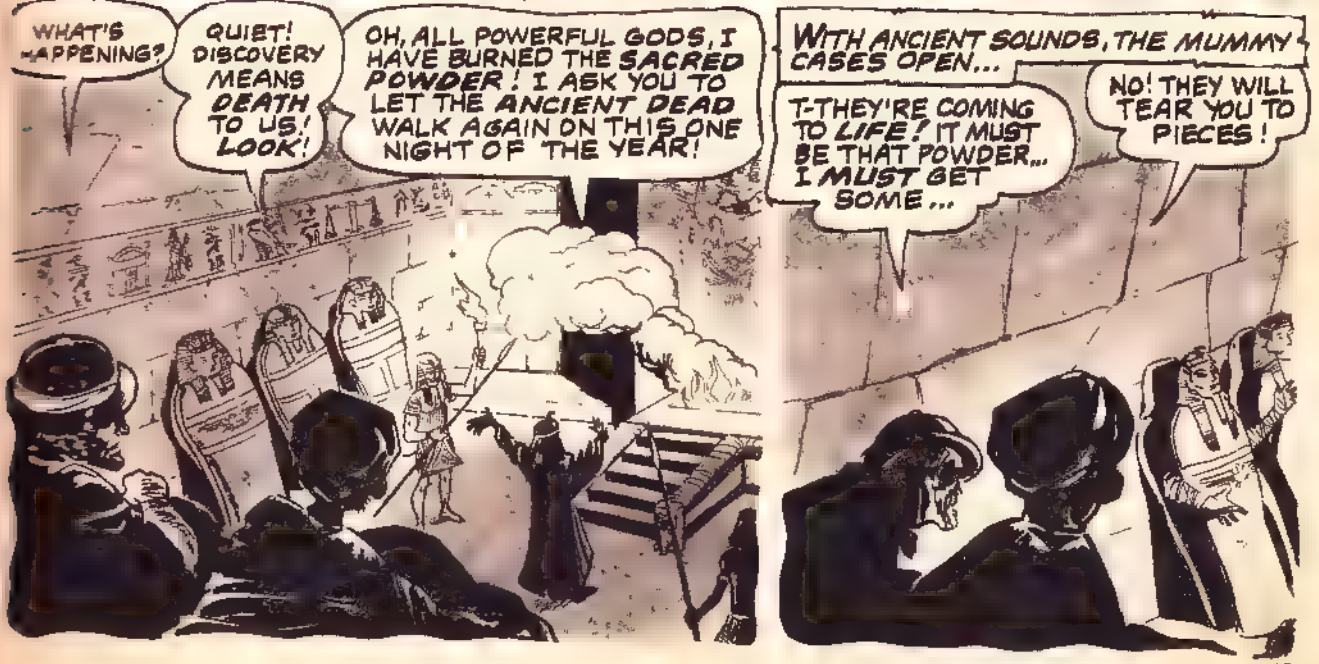


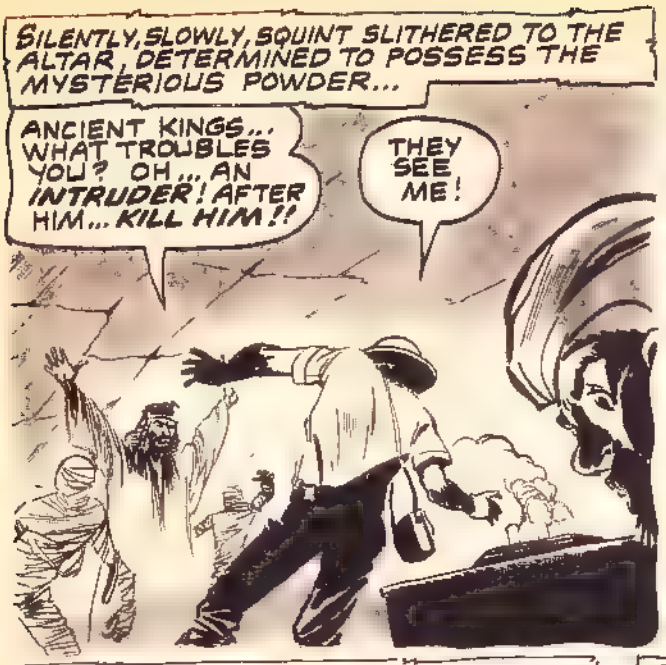

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, ANOTHER SMALL PORTION OF THE ENGLISH JEWEL ROBBERY IS SMUGGLED ABOARD A SHIP...
WHAT A SWEET RACKET! NOTHING TO DO BUT DELIVER THE GOODS TO BIG STEVE AND BE PAID OFF!
YOU POOR SUCKER--YOU'RE ONLY WASTING YOUR TIME! NOW TO SPOT MY CONTACT--A MAN WITH A RED CARNATION!
RIGHT THIS WAY, PLEASE! GO TO AREA SIX TO HAVE YOUR LUGGAGE CHECKED...
YOUR LUGGAGE LOOKS OKAY, SIR!
THANKS, BUDDY!
SQUINT WAS MET AT THE BOAT...
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU, SQUINT! BIG STEVE SAYS YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET THE STUFF PAST CUSTOMS WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT!
HE'S RIGHT! AND I'LL SHOW YOU HOW WHEN WE GET TO STEVE'S!
SQUINT! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU, PAL! NO TROUBLE, EH?
NAW, STEVE! IT WENT REAL SMOOTH! HI, FELLAS...
LET'S SEE WHAT YA GOT THIS TIME!
WHAT'S HE DOING TO HIS FACE?
OKAY, STEVE, JUST A TWIST OF THE WRIST, AND...

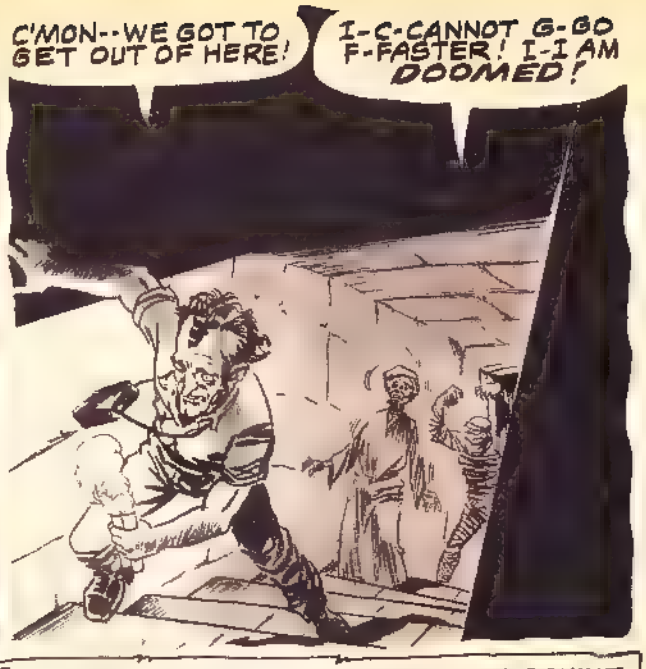

PRESTO! JUST LIKE MAGIC...
H-HE TOOK HIS EYE OUT!
EASY, MAX--THAT'S THE GIMMICK! IT'S A GLASS EYE WITH ROOM INSIDE TO CARRY DIAMONDS!
SURE, MAX-- HE'S OUR BOY WITH THE MILLION DOLLAR LOOK!
THERE YOU ARE, BOYS...
PRETTY... BUT I LIKE 'EM BETTER WHEN THEY'RE TURNED INTO CASH!
AHH-- LET ME FEEL 'EM!
I'LL BE...
LOOK...HOW COME YOU GOT THIS NEW GUY, MAX INTO THE SET UP?
TAKE IT EASY! WAIT 'TILL THE OTHERS BLOW!
SQUINT, THE FEDS HAVE BEEN NOSYING AROUND! SEEMS TO ME THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE! TELL HIM ABOUT IT, MAX!
I GOT AN EMERALD A GUY IN EGYPT HAS BEEN KEEPING FOR ME! IT WOULD FIT INTO THAT EYE JUST RIGHT!
SOUNDS GREAT! GIVE ME THE LOWDOWN!
A FEW DAYS LATER...
I'LL SEE YA IN TEN WEEKS!
HA! DON'T GET ANY EGYPTIAN SAND IN YOUR EYES! HA-HA!
KEEP IN TOUCH!


SQUINT DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME! HE WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN GETTING MAX'S EMERALD... THAT IS UNTIL...
NOW...THE ADDRESS... HEY...THAT GUY... HEY... WHAT ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME FOR?
SIRE, YOU NEED GOOD GUIDE? I CAN SHOW YOU SECRETS OF EGYPT... JUST A FEW PENNIES, SIRE...
...COME, I WILL SHOW YOU A MYSTERY OF WHICH MY PEOPLE FEAR TO SPEAK...
WELL, WHY NOT! I COULD USE SOME RELAXATION ANYWAY!


FOR AN HOUR THE TWO RODE ACROSS THE BARREN DESERT LAND...THEN...
OKAY! SO IT'S A PYRAMID... NOW WHAT?
TONIGHT IS THE ANCIENT RITUAL... YOU WILL SEE WHAT NO WHITE MAN HAS EVER SEEN! THE DEAD WILL WALK!
EVEN THE AIR SEEMED DEAD IN THE ANCIENT TOMB AS THEY WENT DOWN...
HUH? WHAT WAS THAT?
IT IS THE SIGNAL FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE CEREMONY OF THE DEAD! HURRY, OR WE'LL MISS IT!


WHAT'S HAPPENING?
QUIET! DISCOVERY MEANS DEATH TO US! LOOK!
OH, ALL POWERFUL GODS, I HAVE BURNED THE SACRED POWDER! I ASK YOU TO LET THE ANCIENT DEAD WALK AGAIN ON THIS ONE NIGHT OF THE YEAR!
WITH ANCIENT SOUNDS, THE MUMMY CASES OPEN...
T-THEY'RE COMING TO LIFE! IT MUST BE THAT POWDER... I MUST GET SOME...
NO! THEY WILL TEAR YOU TO PIECES!


SILENTLY, SLOWLY, SQUINT SLITHERED TO THE ALTAR, DETERMINED TO POSSESS THE MYSTERIOUS POWDER...
ANCIENT KINGS... WHAT TROUBLES YOU? OH... AN INTRUDER! AFTER HIM... KILL HIM!!
THEY SEE ME!

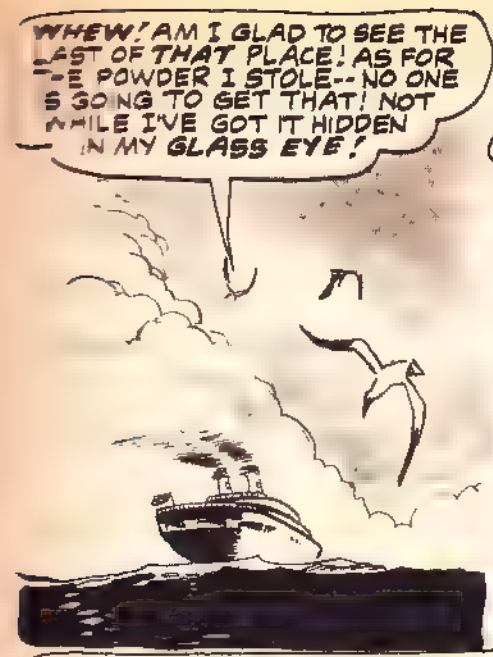

C'MON--WE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
I-C-CANNOT G-GO F-FASTER! I-I AM DOOMED!

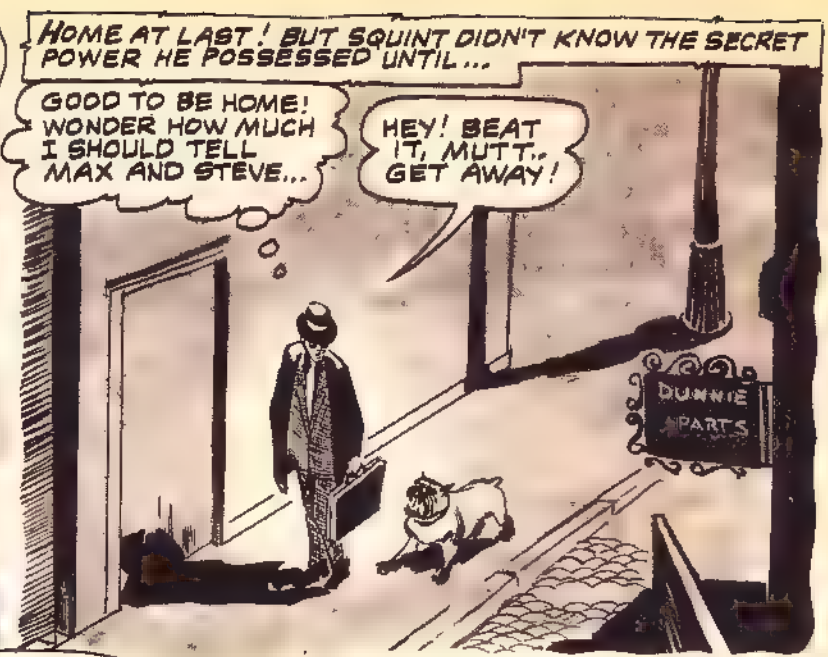
BELOW, THE PONDEROUS STEPS OF THE ANCIENT DEAD KINGS RELENTLESSLY FOLLOW...
OH, THEY GOT HIM! I'LL BE NEXT!

ON A LAST MOMENT OF DESPERATION, SQUINT THROWS ONE OF THE VIALS OF POWDER AT THE ONRUSHING MUMMIES, AND...
BAL-OOM

WHAT A BREAK! THIS STUFF IS LIKE T.N.T.! NOW TO GET OUT OF HERE...

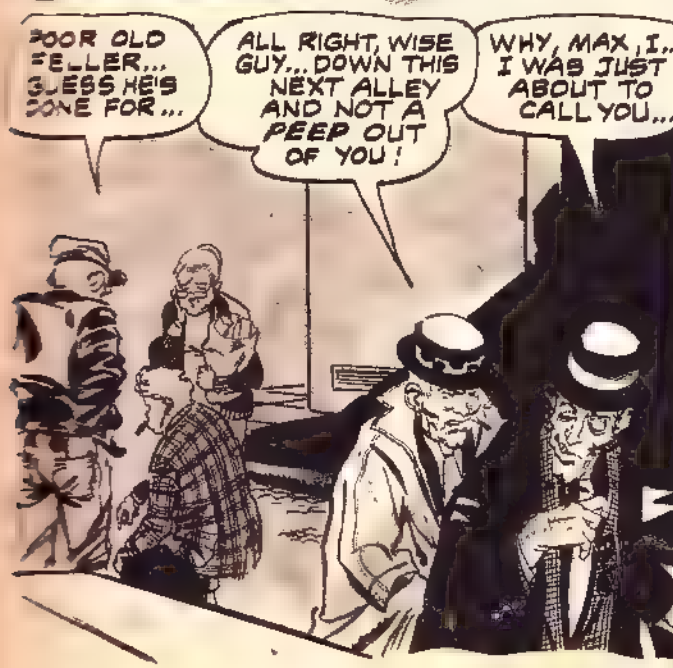
WITHOUT STOPPING, SQUINT RAN ALL THE WAY TO HIS HOTEL ROOM...
I--I (PUFF-PUFF) GO, TO LEAVE THIS PLACE--MIGHT COME AFTER ME HERE (PUFF)... TAKE BOAT, TONIGHT...
?


WHEW! AM I GLAD TO SEE THE LAST OF THAT PLACE! AS FOR THE POWDER I STOLE-- NO ONE IS GOING TO GET THAT! NOT WHILE I'VE GOT IT HIDDEN IN MY GLASS EYE!


HOME AT LAST! BUT SQUINT DIDN'T KNOW THE SECRET POWER HE POSSESSED UNTIL...
GOOD TO BE HOME! WONDER HOW MUCH I SHOULD TELL MAX AND STEVE...
HEY! BEAT IT, MUTT.. GET AWAY!
DUNNIE PARTS

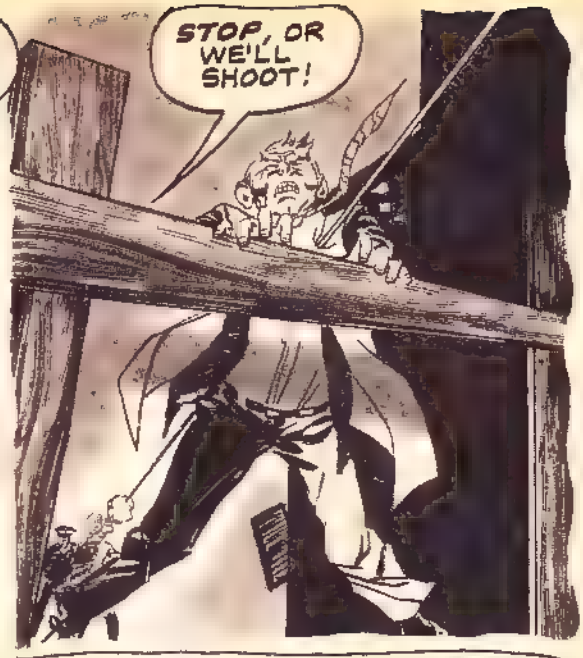
I HEARD IF YOU LOOK 'EM IN THE EYE, SHOW EM YOU'RE NOT AFRAID, DOGS LEAVE YOU... SEE, MY EYE, IT FEELS SO FUNNY... KIND OF WARM...? WELL, LOOK AT THAT...

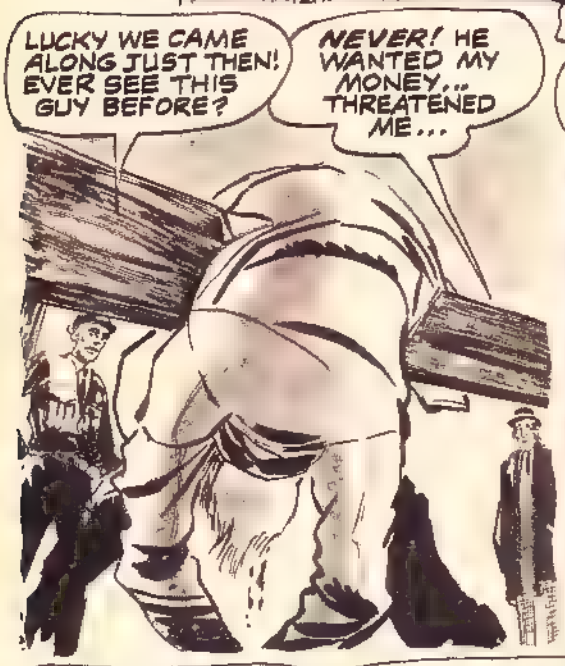
IT SEEMS LIKE ONE LOOK FROM ME MADE HIM A DEAD DOG!

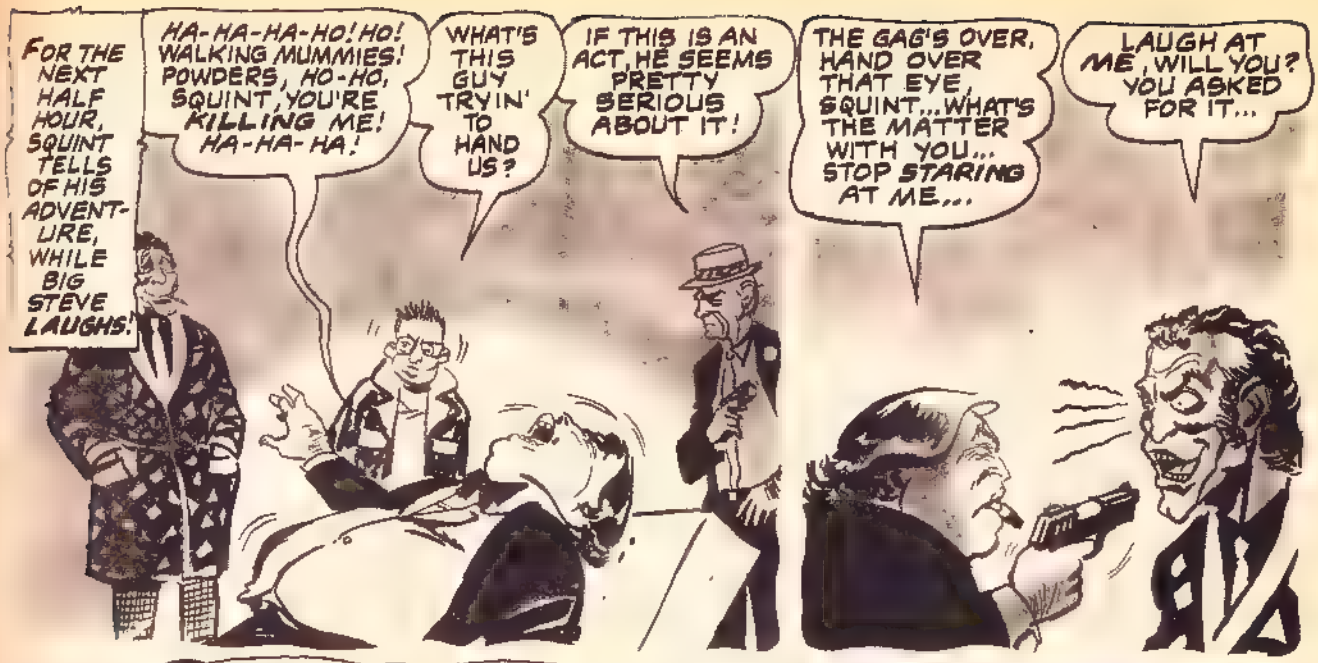

POOR OLD FELLER... GUESS HE'S GONE FOR...
ALL RIGHT, WISE GUY... DOWN THIS NEXT ALLEY AND NOT A PEEP OUT OF YOU!
WHY, MAX, I... I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU...

I HAD A HUNCH YOU MIGHT TRY TO COME BACK SOONER THAN YOU SAID, AND KEEP THE EMERALD YOURSELF! OKAY, SQUINT, UNSCREW THAT PHONEY EYE!
NOW WAIT A MINUTE, MAX... YOU GOT ME ALL WRONG!

SQUINT KNOWS THAT DEATH IS VERY CLOSE, AND THAT MAX WILL NEVER BELIEVE HIS STORY, AND SO...





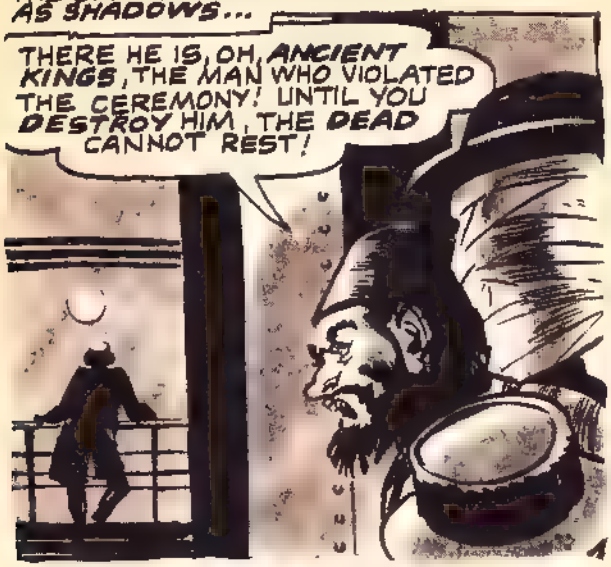

FOR THE NEXT HALF HOUR, SQUINT TELLS OF HIS ADVENTURE, WHILE BIG STEVE LAUGHS!
HA-HA-HA-HO! HO! WALKING MUMMIES! POWDERS, HO-HO, SQUINT, YOU'RE KILLING ME! HA-HA-HA!
WHAT'S THIS GUY TRYIN' TO HAND US?
IF THIS IS AN ACT, HE SEEMS PRETTY SERIOUS ABOUT IT!
THE GAG'S OVER, HAND OVER THAT EYE, SQUINT... WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU... STOP STARING AT ME...
LAUGH AT ME, WILL YOU? YOU ASKED FOR IT...

WHY DON'T YOU LAUGH NOW, FAT BOY!
BLIND! I CAN'T SEE... HE MADE ME BLIND!
BOSS... WATCH OUT!

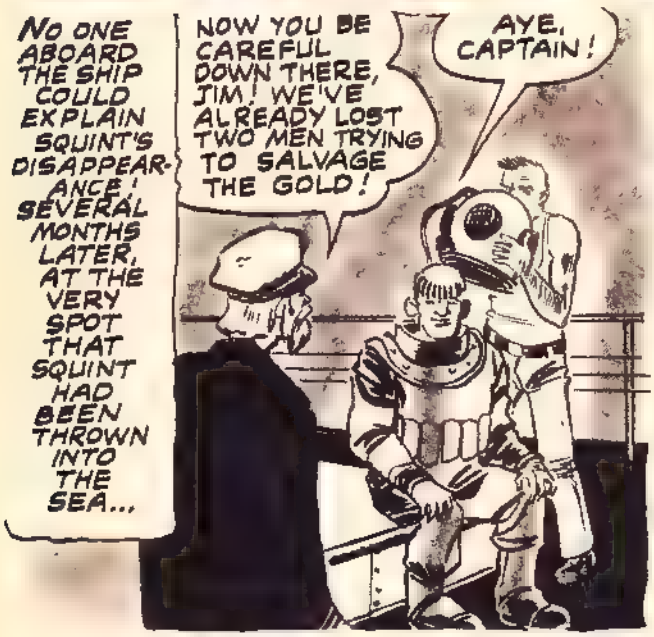
CAN'T SEE...

YOU BETTER RUN... UNLESS YOU WANT TO GO DOWN THE SHORT WAY!
OUT OF MY WAY!

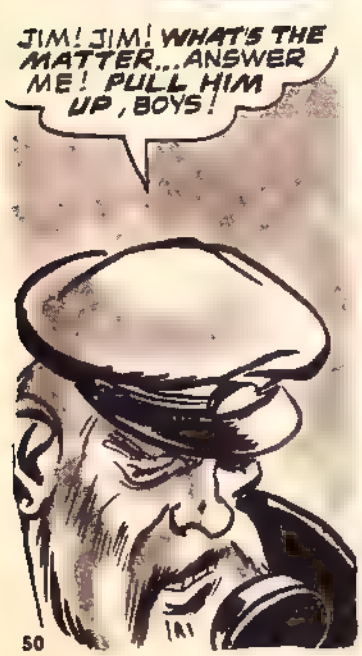
SQUINT DECIDED TO LAY LOW FOR AWHILE... BUT AS HE WAITS FOR HIS BOAT TO LEAVE, HE DID NOT NOTICE THE THREE STRANGE MEN COMING ABOARD...
YES, SIR, "BOSS" SQUINT... YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO THE TOP!

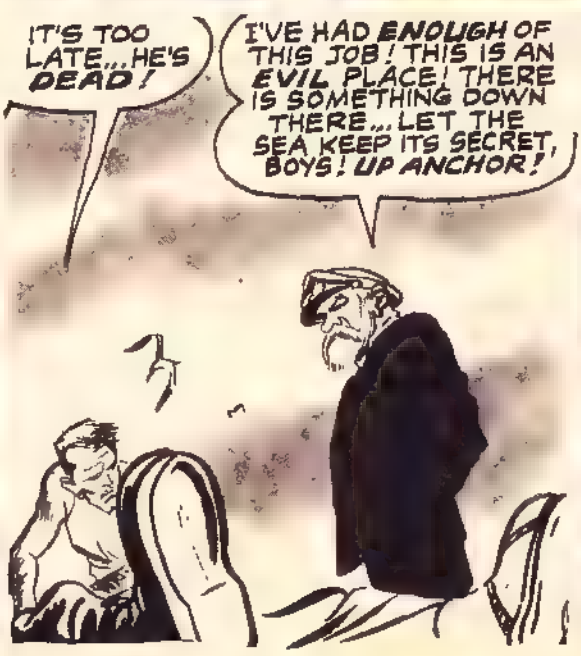

BUT ONE DARK NIGHT DURING THE VOYAGE, THE BULKY STRANGERS WHO HAD BOARDED THE SHIP APPEARED ON DECK AS SILENT AS SHADOWS...
THERE HE IS, OH, ANCIENT KINGS, THE MAN WHO VIOLATED THE CEREMONY! UNTIL YOU DESTROY HIM, THE DEAD CANNOT REST!

WITH CAT-LIKE STEPS, THE AVENGERS SLINK BEHIND THE UNPREPARED SQUINT AND...
KILL... KILL...
IT... IT'S THE MUMMIES... NO! DON'T THROW ME OVERBOARD!


NO ONE ABOARD THE SHIP COULD EXPLAIN SQUINT'S DISAPPEARANCE! SEVERAL MONTHS LATER, AT THE VERY SPOT THAT SQUINT HAD BEEN THROWN INTO THE SEA...
NOW YOU BE CAREFUL DOWN THERE, JIM! WE'VE ALREADY LOST TWO MEN TRYING TO SALVAGE THE GOLD!
AYE, CAPTAIN!

SOMETHING FUNNY DOWN HERE, CAPTAIN... SOMETHING SHINING NEAR THE WRECK... IT LOOKS LIKE AN EYE... STARING AT ME... OH... AIR... URGH... LINES TANG--LED...


JIM! JIM! WHAT'S THE MATTER... ANSWER ME! PULL HIM UP, BOYS!


IT'S TOO LATE... HE'S DEAD!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS JOB! THIS IS AN EVIL PLACE! THERE IS SOMETHING DOWN THERE... LET THE SEA KEEP ITS SECRET, BOYS! UP ANCHOR!

AND WHILE THE SALVAGE SHIP DISAPPEARS OVER THE HORIZON, THE EVIL REMAINS OF SQUINT KEEP A LONELY VIGIL BY THE OLD WRECK WHERE HE DROWNED!
THE END

THE DUEL

IN A DANK, MUSTY ROOM, TWO MEN ARE LOCKED IN COMBAT!

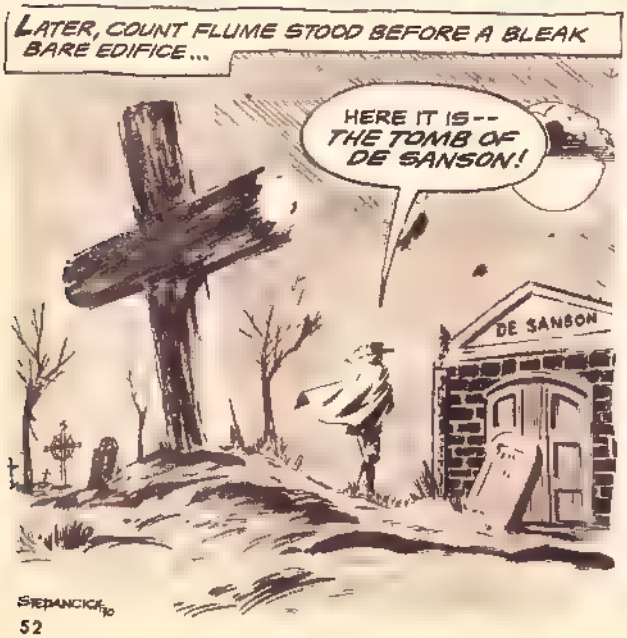
AHH, COUNT FLUME... YOU LOWERED YOUR GUARD!
I--I FORGOT! BUT I WILL LEARN! YOU WILL SEE DAILLOT!

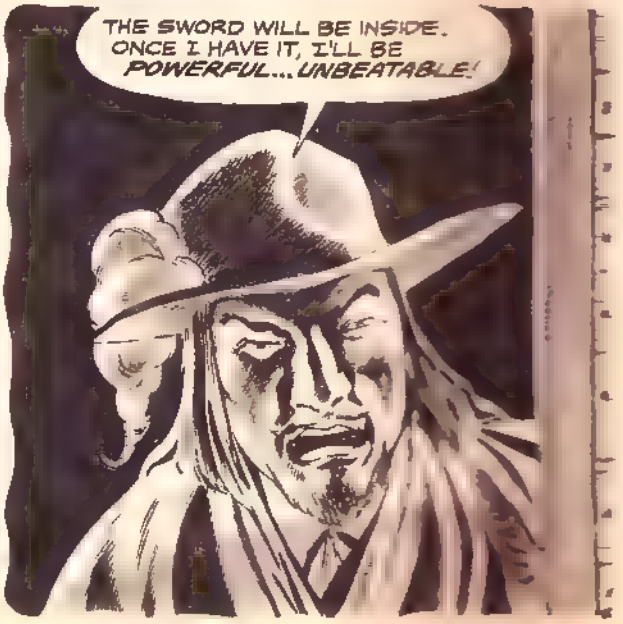
SOMEDAY I WILL BECOME ANOTHER CHEVALIER DE SANSON!
THE CHEV--! OH, NO! IMPOSSIBLE!

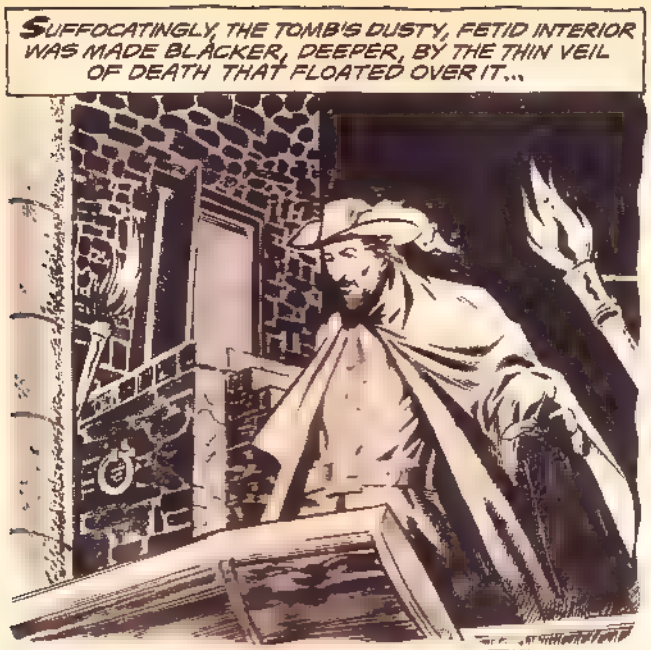
WHEN HE LIVED, NO ONE WAS AS GOOD AS DE SANSON! THEY SAID HIS SWORD WAS DEATH! THAT'S WHY THEY BURIED WITH -- AS A PRECAUTION THAT IT NEVER BE USED AGAIN!

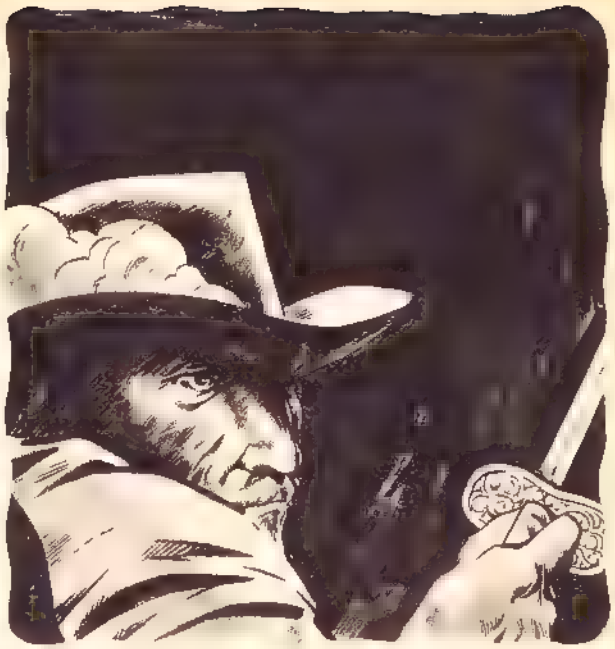
I HATE TO SAY THIS... BUT YOU WILL NEVER BE A GOOD SWORDSMAN!

NEVER BE AS GOOD AS DE SANSON, E-?
SAID HIS SWORD
WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THAT! HA,

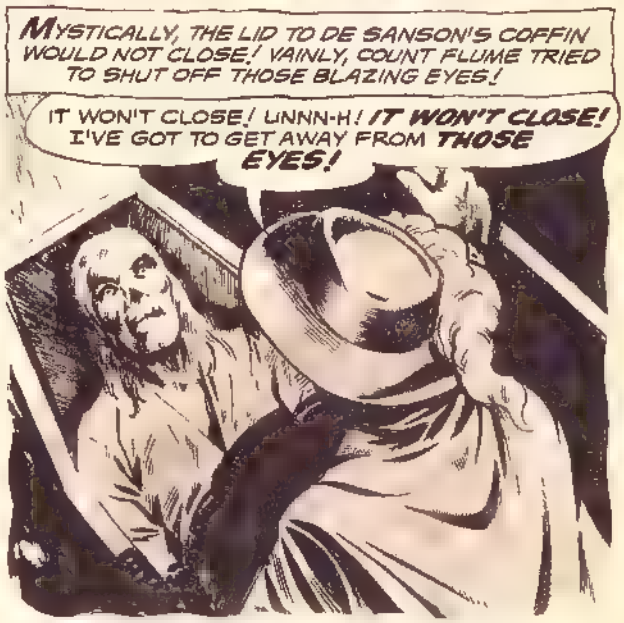

LATER, COUNT FLUME STOOD BEFORE A BLEAK BARE EDIFICE...
HERE IT IS -- THE TOMB OF DE SANSON!
DE SANSON
SIEPANICKI

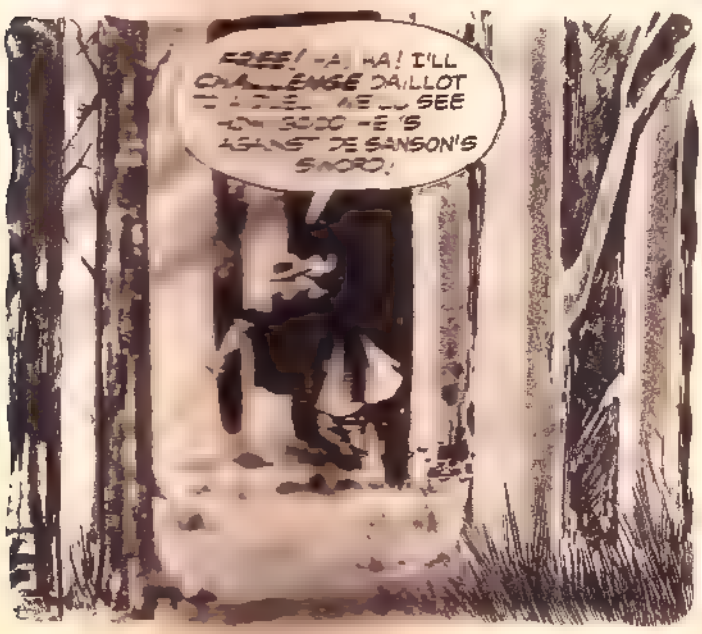

THE SWORD WILL BE INSIDE. ONCE I HAVE IT, I'LL BE POWERFUL... UNBEATABLE!


SUFFOCATINGLY, THE TOMB'S DUSTY, FETID INTERIOR WAS MADE BLACKER, DEEPER, BY THE THIN VEIL OF DEATH THAT FLOATED OVER IT...



HERE IT IS. I'VE GOT DE SANSON'S SWORD! WAIT! THOSE EYES! THEY SEEM TO BE LOOKING AT ME! I BETTER CLOSE THE COFFIN LID!


MYSTICALLY, THE LID TO DE SANSON'S COFFIN WOULD NOT CLOSE! VAINLY, COUNT FLUME TRIED TO SHUT OFF THOSE BLAZING EYES!
IT WON'T CLOSE! UNNN-H! IT WON'T CLOSE! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THOSE EYES!


FREE! -A HA! I'LL CHALLENGE DAILLOT TO A DUEL AND SEE HOW GOOD HE'S AGAINST DE SANSON'S SWORD!

DAILLOT, YESTERDAY YOU INSULTED MY HONOR! FOR THAT, I CHALLENGE YOU! TO A DUEL OF DEATH!
THIS IS SILLY! BUT... IF YOU INSIST... I CANNOT REJECT A CHALLENGE!

THE NEXT MORNING, THE STILL QUIET MISTS OF THE MARSHES ROSE AROUND COUNT FLUME AND DAILLOT! HOWEVER, A STRANGER APPEARED...

GENTLEMEN, YOU WILL NEED A...A... REFEREE FOR THIS DUEL!

WE DO NOT NEED ANYONE! GO AWAY!

NO... STAY! YOU SHALL SEE IF WE FIGHT IN FAIRNESS!

THUS...IT BEGAN...

HOW IS YOUR PUPIL... NOW? HA! HA!

I--I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD...

...LOSE! YAA-AH!

HA! THE SWORD WORKS! IT WORKS! HA! HA! I AM POWERFUL... THE NEW MASTER OF SWORDS!

COUNT FLUME BECAME THE MASTER OF SWORDS SOON... IT WAS KNOWN THAT HE POSSESSED DE SANSON'S SWORD! EVERYONE COWERED... EXCEPT THE STRANGER OF THE MARCHES!

IT'S COUNT FLUME! HE HAS DE SANSON'S SWORD!

THE SWORD OF DEATH!

THAT MAN! THAT STRANGER... BEEN FOLLOWING ME! I'LL FIND OUT WHO HE IS...

SIR, YOU HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING ME! WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHO ARE YOU?

HERE'S MY CARD COUNT FLUME

I DON'T WANT TO READ IT! YOU WILL SOON BE A CORPSE!
THE STRANGER WAS LIKE A SHADOW... AMORPHOUS, SLITHERING! FLUME FELT THE CHILLING, FAINT WHISPER OF DEATH ABOUT HIM! IT BECAME LOUDER... UNTIL HE SAW...
THAT FACE! NO-O-O-O!
NOOO! IT CAN'T BE!
COUNT FLUME, YOU DROPPED YOUR SWORD, TAKE MINE! I WILL USE YOURS!
CLANG
LET ME LIVE! I DID NOT MEAN TO... AIEEE!
COUNT FLUME FELL TO THE GROUND, THE GRIPPING, PANGS OF DEATH JARRING HIS BODY! THE SWORD HE HAD HOPE TO BECOME MASTER WITH HAD IRONICALLY BEEN WIELDED AGAINST HIM... BY IT'S RIGHTFUL OWNER...
CAVALLIER DE SANSON
... BACK TO THE FUNERAL ENCLOSURE OF PERPETUAL REST! ONCE AGAIN, THE SWORD OF DEATH IS AT THE SIDE OF DE SANSON!
DE SANSON
The END

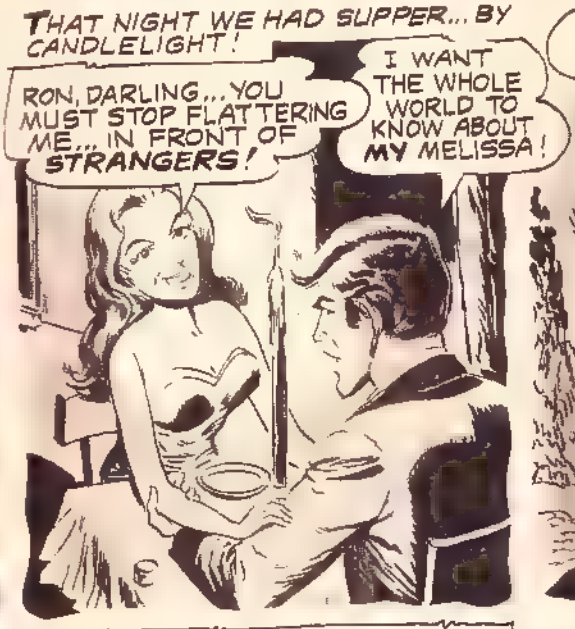
VENGEANCE

MELISSA...MY MELISSA...WAS THE SPARK OF LIFE AND BEAUTY AT OUR GOING AWAY COCKTAIL PARTY...
HAVE A FINE TRIP! WE'LL MISS YOU AND RON!
THANK YOU! YOU'RE ALL SO SWEET!

THEY'RE SUCH A HANDSOME COUPLE!
HOW THEY MUST LOVE EACH OTHER!

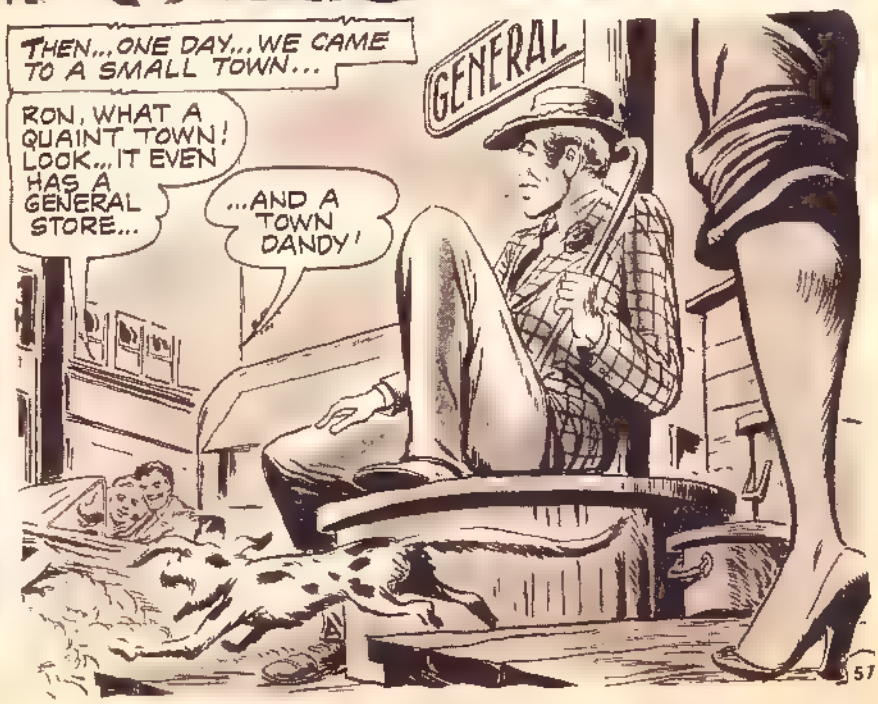
WE HAD PLANNED A VACATION! MELISSA WANTED TO SEE THE COUNTRY BY TRAILER... SO TRAILER IT WAS!
RON, HAVE WE GOT EVERYTHING?
YES... THIS IS THE LAST OF THE LUGGAGE!

OH, RON... WE'LL HAVE SUCH A GOOD TIME!
I'M SURE OF IT!


THAT NIGHT WE HAD SUPPER... BY CANDLELIGHT!
RON, DARLING... YOU MUST STOP FLATTERING ME... IN FRONT OF STRANGERS!
I WANT THE WHOLE WORLD TO KNOW ABOUT MY MELISSA!

I'LL NEVER STOP TALKING ABOUT YOU!

THE NEXT FEW DAYS WERE THE HAPPIEST OF MY LIFE! HOW MELISSA WAS ENJOYING THE SIGHTS...


THEN... ONE DAY... WE CAME TO A SMALL TOWN...
GENERAL
RON, WHAT A QUAINT TOWN! LOOK... IT EVEN HAS A GENERAL STORE...
...AND A TOWN DANDY!

LATER...
DARLING, WE'RE ALL OUT OF POTATOES... WHY DON'T YOU GO AND GET SOME!
OF COURSE!

HURRY BACK, RON! DON'T STOP TO TALK! I'LL MISS YOU... BEING ALONE LIKE THIS!
I'LL MAKE IT AS FAST AS I CAN!

IT WASN'T HARD TO FIND THE GENERAL STORE...
'EVENIN', FOLKS! I'D LIKE TO BUY SOME SUPPLIES!
STEP INSIDE, YOUNG FELLER...

WHAT'LL BE? WE'VE GOT JUST ABOUT EVERY-THING!
I'LL TAKE SOME POTATOES! MELISSA LIKES THEM WITH CHOPS! WELL, THAT'S MELISSA! NO WOMAN CAN COMPARE WITH HER!

ONCE I GOT STARTED ON MELISSA... I COULDN'T STOP...
...THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ALIVE! IF YOU COULD ONLY SEE HER! SHE'S BACK AT CAMP! MELISSA IS...

FINALLY... I DID STOP! I HAD TO GET BACK TO MELISSA! I DIDN'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE DANDY WAS NOT AROUND!
WELL, IT'S BEEN NICE TALKING TO YOU! SEE YOU AROUND!
PLEASURE TO DO BUSINESS!

I RUSHED BACK TO CAMP! THE TRAILER DOOR WAS OPENED...

MELISSA... I'M BACK! MELISSA... MELISSA...

BUT SHE DIDN'T ANSWER! I BOLTED INTO THE TRAILER... AND FOUND IT EMPTY! THE TWO CHOPS ON THE STOVE WERE BLACK... BURNT TO A CRISP...

...WHERE ARE YOU... MELISSAAA...

I RAN OUT! SHE HAD TO BE SOMEWHERE AROUND... SUDDENLY...

MELISSA! WHAT HAPPENED?

I... I DON'T KNOW! A MAN CAME... OH, IT WAS TERRIBLE! HE ASKED ME FOR MONEY! I SCREAMED... HE HIT ME... HE MADE LOVE TO ME!

I COULDN'T STAND IT! RON... I WANT YOU TO FIND THAT MAN! FIND HIM... AND DO SOMETHING TO HIM! FIND HIM! FIND HIM!

I WILL, MELISSA! HE PROBABLY COMES FROM THE TOWN! POINT HIM OUT TO ME... JUST POINT HIM OUT, AND WE'LL HAVE REVENGE!

REVENGE... REVENGE! THE WORD WAS ALL I COULD THINK OF! SOMEONE HAD MOLESTED MY MELISSA... AND WE HAD TO HAVE REVENGE! SLOWLY WE ROVE THROUGH THE TOWN, SCANNING FOR THAT SOMEONE...

POINT... HIM OUT!

I... I WILL! I WILL...

SCARSDALE

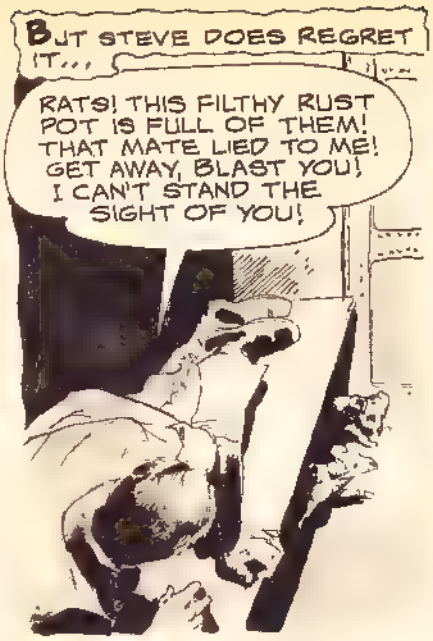
YOU ARE NOW ENTERING SCARSDALE HI!

SUDDENLY, SHE SHOUTED...
THERE HE IS!
IT WAS THE TOWN DANDY! THAT SPIFFY CIGAR-STORE INDIAN! WITHIN THE IMPACT OF A SECOND, I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO!
IT WAS OVER IN A SECOND!
IT'S OVER, MELISSA! I KILLED HIM! WE'VE GOT OUR REVENGE!
MELISSA, DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? MELISSA! WHAT'S WRONG?
THEN... I REALIZED THAT MELISSA WILL ALWAYS SEARCH FOR THE MAN WHO BEAT HER... AND FIND HIM! MELISSA... MY ADORABLE WIFE.. WAS CRAZY!
THERE... HE IS...
THE END

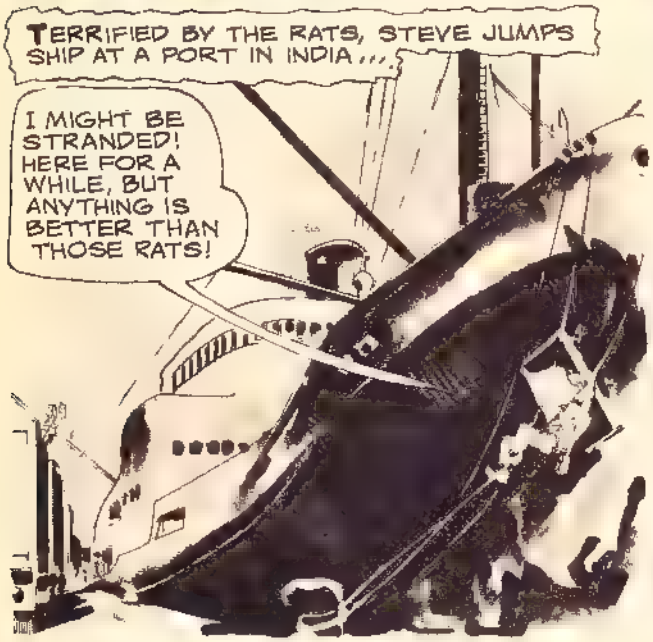
WHAT ARE **YOU** AFRAID OF? BECAUSE EACH ONE OF US FEARS SOME ONE THING MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD: POVERTY, DISGRACE, DEATH! OR EVEN FEAR ITSELF! BUT WHATEVER **YOU** FEAR, READER COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY THAT YOU ARE NOT IN THE SHOES OF STEVE DOLAN, BECAUSE STEVE WAS AFRAID OF RATS! ALL HIS LIFE THEY HAUNTED HIM, AND IN THE END – BUT WE'LL LET YOU FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF HOW STEVE FINISHED IN

THE RAT FEAST

STEVE GREW UP, BUT THE FEAR OF RATS NEVER LEFT HIM! FINALLY HE GOT HIS SEAMAN'S PAPERS AND...
I'D LIKE TO SHIP ON, SIR! DO YOU HAVE MANY RATS ON BOARD?
RATS? ON THIS SHIP? OF COURSE NOT LAD, SHE'S AS CLEAN AS A WHISTLE! SIGN ON AND YOU'LL SEE THE WORLD!

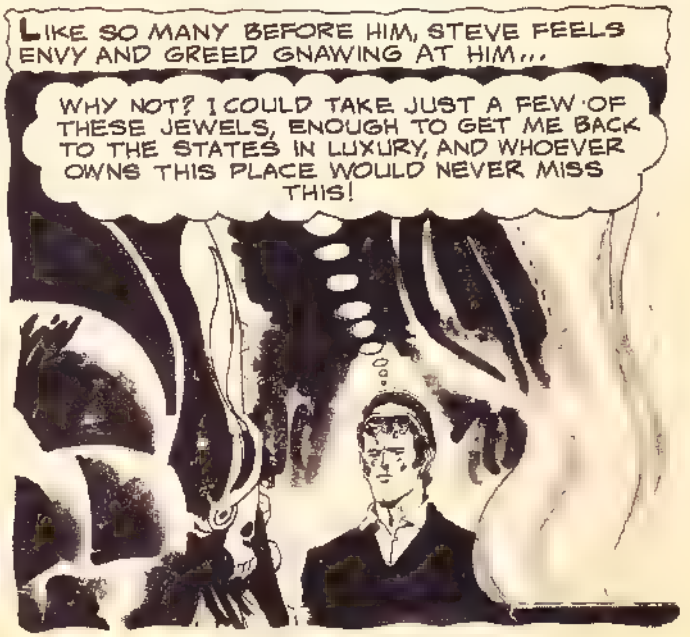

BUT STEVE DOES REGRET IT...
RATS! THIS FILTHY RUST POT IS FULL OF THEM! THAT MATE LIED TO ME! GET AWAY, BLAST YOU! I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF YOU!

LOOK AT THEM! THEY K-KNOW! THEY SENSE HOW FRIGHTENED I AM!


TERRIFIED BY THE RATS, STEVE JUMPS SHIP AT A PORT IN INDIA...
I MIGHT BE STRANDED! HERE FOR A WHILE, BUT ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN THOSE RATS!

FOR DAYS HE EXISTS AS BEST HE CAN! THEN ONE DAY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE THE INSIDE OF THESE TEMPLES! DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYBODY AROUND SO, I'LL CHANCE IT!

AND INSIDE...
WOW! JUST LOOK AT THOSE IDOLS! GOLD AND JEWELS ALL OVER THEM! AND NOBODY GUARDING THEM! I'VE HEARD ABOUT THINGS LIKE THIS, BUT I NEVER BELIEVED IT UNTIL NOW!


LIKE SO MANY BEFORE HIM, STEVE FEELS ENVY AND GREED GNAWING AT HIM...
WHY NOT? I COULD TAKE JUST A FEW OF THESE JEWELS, ENOUGH TO GET ME BACK TO THE STATES IN LUXURY, AND WHOEVER OWNS THIS PLACE WOULD NEVER MISS THIS!

AND SUCCUMBS...
BOY! A FEW OF THESE RUBIES AND EMERALDS AND I'LL BE FIXED FOR LIFE! MIGHT AS WELL TAKE ALL I CAN CARRY WHILE I'M AT IT! BUT I BETTER HURRY BEFORE SOME OF THE PRIESTS SHOW UP!
SUDDENLY, OUT OF NOW HERE, ROBED FIGURES SPRING AT HIM...
AAAHHHHHH— LEMME GO!
YOU DEVIL! YOU DARE DEFILE TEMPLE!
HE COMMITS SACRILEGE! TAKE HIM TO OUR MASTER!
I SAY KILL HIM NOW!
STEVE IS TAKEN TO ANOTHER IDOL...
YOU ARE GUILTY OF A GREAT SIN, STRANGER! WHY SHOULD YOU NOT DIE?
YIIIII— THE IDOL CAN TALK! G-GOING TO HAVE ME KILLED!
PLEASE! I DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM, HONEST! I'LL GIVE YOU BACK THE STUFF! ONLY DON'T (GASP) K-KILL ME!
IT IS NOT THE VALUE OF THE JEWELS THAT MATTERS, FOOL! YOUR SIN IS GRAVER THAN THAT! YOU AN INFIDEL, HAVE BEFOULED OUR TEMPLE!
DEATH IS TOO QUICK, TOO EASY FOR YOU! YOUR PUNISHMENT SHALL BE LONG AND PAINFUL, ACCORDING TO YOUR NATURE! AND MY ANCIENT WISDOM TELLS ME WHAT IT IS THAT YOU FEAR MOST! RATS!
AHHHEEEE— NO! N-NOT THAT!
YES! KONG, THE GOD SHALL FOLLOW YOU FOR ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE! NEVER STOP RUNNING, FOR THEN HE WILL OVERTAKE AND DEVOUR YOU! THAT IS YOUR PUNISHMENT! NOW GO!
STEVE IS RELEASED BY THE PRIESTS AND RUN FOR HIS LIEE...
I-I DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT STUFF, BUT I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES! KONG, THE RAT GOD! UGH! I'LL FIND A SHIP, ANY SHIP AND GET OUT OF HERE TODAY!

BUT HE FINDS NO BERTH THAT DAY! WHEN IT GETS DARK, HE GOES TO A CHEAP FLOP-HOUSE...

ALL THOSE SHIPS IN THE HARBOR AND NOT A SINGLE BLASTED ONE OF THEM NEED A MAN! WELL MAYBE TOMORROW! B-BUT I WISH I COULD FORGET ABOUT THAT IDOL AND THE CURSE! EVEN IF THERE ISN'T ANY SUCH THINGS!

LATER, STEVE IS AWAKENED BY A WEIRD SOUND! HE LOOKS AND...

YAAAEEEEEE—A RAT! GAAA—IT'S AFTER ME! THE C-CURSE! IT'S KONGI, THE RAT GOD!

STOP IT! YAAAA—HELP! DON'T LET IT GET ME! PLEASE—PLEASE! SOMEBODY KILL IT!

WHAT AILS HIM!

HE SEES SOMETHING, BUT WHAT?

LATER...

CAN'T YOU—(SOB)—SEE IT? IT'S AFTER ME, G-GOING TO KILL ME! PLEASE DO SOMETHING! SHOOT IT! I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF IT—AAAAAAAA—

YOU HAVE HAD TOO MUCH WINE, SIR! PERHAPS IF YOU WOULD SLEEP...

ONLY THEN DOES STEVE REALIZE THAT ONLY HE SEES THE RAT...

OWWWWW—COMING AFTER ME! AND THEY DON'T BELIEVE ME! AND THE PRIEST—(GROAN)—SAID IT WOULD FOLLOW ME FOR THE R-REST OF MY LIFE! YEEEE—I'LL GO C-CRAZY!

SOMEHOW STEVE FINDS HIMSELF AT THE TEMPLE AGAIN...

I'VE GOT TO SEE THAT IDOL, THE PRIESTS, BEG FOR MERCY! I'LL MAKE KILL ME! ANYTHING, ANYTHING AT ALL IS B-BETTER THAN THE RAT! HELP—HELP!

HELP ME, FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN! THE RAT—AFTER ME! D-DON'T LET IT GET ME! I BEG YOU! KILL ME INSTEAD!

YOU SUFFER MUCH, STRANGER! THERE IS PITY IN OUR HEARTS FOR YOUR SIN! BUT I CANNOT UNDO THE CURSE OF THE RAT GOD! HOWEVER, THERE IS A WAY OF KEEPING HIM AT A DISTANCE! GO AND MY PRIEST WILL SHOW YOU! HURRY!

MOMENTS LATER...
HURRY, MAN! THE RAT IS AFTER ME! THEY SAID YOU WOULD GIVE ME SOMETHING TO KEEP HIM AWAY!
YES! THIS PRAYER WHEEL! EACH TIME YOU SPIN IT SAY A PRAYER! KEEP SPINNING IT AND KONG! CANNOT HARM YOU!
SOON...
I DON'T SEE THE RAT NOW! MAYBE IT KNOWS ABOUT THE PRAYER WHEEL, KNOWS IT CAN'T HURT ME! M-MAYBE IT HAS GIVEN UP!
THEN HE LOOKS BEHIND HIM, AND...
EEEEEYAAAAAA— IT'S THE RAT! EEEEEAAAAAA—
SQUEE-RREE-
HE REMEMBERS JUST IN TIME AND SPINS THE PRAYER WHEEL...
IT W-WORKS! OH, THANK GOODNESS IT WORKS! THE RAT-F-FADING, GOING! AS LONG AS I SPIN THIS WHEEL, I'LL BE SAFE!
STEVE APPEALS TO THE AMERICAN CONSUL AND IS SENT HOME BY AIR...
THEY THINK I'M CRAZY, BUT LET THEM! AS LONG AS I KEEP SPINNG THIS THING, I CAN'T SEE THE RAT! AND I'M GOING TO SPIN IT THE REST OF MY LIFE!
AND BACK IN NEW YORK HE BECOMES A FAMILIAR SIGHT...
I'VE SEEN NUTS IN MY TIME, BUT THAT GUY BEATS THEM ALL!
I WONDER WHY HE SPINS THAT GADGET ALL THE TIME?
IF THEY ONLY KNEW! BUT I DON'T CARE—I HAVEN'T SEEN THE RAT GOD SINCE I'VE BEEN BACK IN THE STATES!
THEN ONE DAY THE INEVITABLE HAPPENS...
HEY! LOOK OUT, YOU FOOL!
MAYBE I LEFT THE RAT ON THE OTHER SIDE! I HOPE THAT...
GAAAA—

HOURS LATER HE AWAKENS IN A STRANGE ROOM...
HUH! WHERE—WHAT HAPPENED? OH, I REMEMBER NOW! B-BUT WHERE IS MY PRAYER WHEEL? DON'T THEY KNOW I MUST HAVE THAT? NURSE! QUICK!
SOMEONE COMING NOW, THANK GOODNESS! THEY MUST HAVE THE PRAYER WHEEL WITH MY OTHER THINGS!
COME IN, NURSE! I'VE GOT TO...
THERE IS TIME FOR ONE LAST SCREAM...
KONG!! EEEEEYYYAAAAA—
THE END

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112—Eerie
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116—Class of 77
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118—Dragoon
119—Asphalt Commando
120—Surfin Safari
121—Keep On Bikin'
123—Planet Of The Apes
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126—Skeleton
127—Eatin Ain't Cheatin
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129—Jive Turkey
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IMPOSSIBLE?

"Every successful bodybuilder has got to use the most advanced bodybuilding methods available-UNIVERSAL BODYBUILDING offers the best! Using UNIVERSAL methods, I have made excellent gains!"

Brian Eastman

NOT FOR THE SUPER BODYBUILDING SYSTEM!

BE BETTER THAN THE BEST, BE DYNAMIC!

MOST MEN NEVER REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL FOR MUSCULARITY. Why? Probably because they've never come across or taken advantage of a training program quite like the one we offer here at UNIVERSAL BODYBUILDING. Our course has the ULTIMATE MASTERPLAN for TOTAL BODY DEVELOPMENT!

Very few men are satisfied with the way they look at present. They know themselves that they wouldn't mind having a REALLY MASCULINE BODY — one that will "turn on" the girls and make the guys envious.

WITH UNIVERSAL METHODS, YOU CAN BREAK OUT OF YOUR "OLD" SELF, AND TRANSFORM YOUR BODY INTO AN ATTENTION-GETTER!!! WE GUARANTEE TO IMPROVE YOUR BODY FAR BEYOND WHAT YOU'VE EVER BELIEVED POSSIBLE! We have perfected bodybuilding training techniques to the extreme, so that we can offer you the fastest gains possible. If you're thin and underweight, you'll be astonished at how quickly muscles appear. If you're overweight, we can help you to trim down the fat and replace it with rock-hard muscle. We'll tone up your abdominal area, and show you how to obtain a well-defined and impressive waist.

Add 2 or 3 inches to your arms, 4 or 5 inches to your chest — your rewards will be in direct proportion to your effort and accomplishments — nobody sets a limit to your success.

In the time it takes to complete this 12 lesson course, we can guarantee you a muscular foundation fantastic enough to be developed to your fullest potential!!! You can go far beyond mere "improvement" with the Advanced Training Techniques included in this course. We can give you the firm, rippling, muscular body of a physique star!!! Send in for our FREE COLORFUL BROCHURES TODAY (fantastic information about our course — loaded with unbelievable photographs). You won't regret it!!!

BE GREAT-BE SOMEBODY SPECIAL!

Improve your health, self-confidence and your outlook on life as you become more muscular. Regardless of your age, height or present build, we'll help you build a fabulous body. Thousands of people have taken this course with fantastic results — why not you? Whatever you look like today, we can improve on it. We guarantee it!!!

- ☐ **ARMS** — Develop big, powerful arms — the kind girls love to be held in! Command respect from everyone you meet!
- ☐ **CHEST** — Is your chest sunken and unimpressive? No more! It's easy to build a massive chest. You can measure 45, 47, or even 50 inches!
- ☐ **BACK** — Develop your upper back, and get that outstanding "V-Shape!" Often within one week you'll be able to see that wedge formation begin to take shape — it's a real attention-getter!
- ☐ **SHOULDERS** — Get rid of those puny shoulders! Instead, fill your shirts with bulging muscles!
- ☐ **LEGS** — Put some muscle on those spindly legs! Muscular legs will give you extra power like you've never dreamed possible!
- ☐ **ABDOMEN** — Trim and hard — that's the way your abs should look. Get rid of your pot-belly, improve your digestion, and get that washboard waist—all when you develop those abdominal muscles!

FREE!

UNIVERSAL
BODYBUILDING
Box 485 Dept HO
Dearborn, Michigan 48121

RUSH me those FREE COLORFUL BROCHURES TODAY! I want to be able to KNOCK 'EM DEAD with a FABULOUS BODY!!!

Enclosed find 25¢ for postage & handling.

Name_____ Age____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

MAIL TODAY!